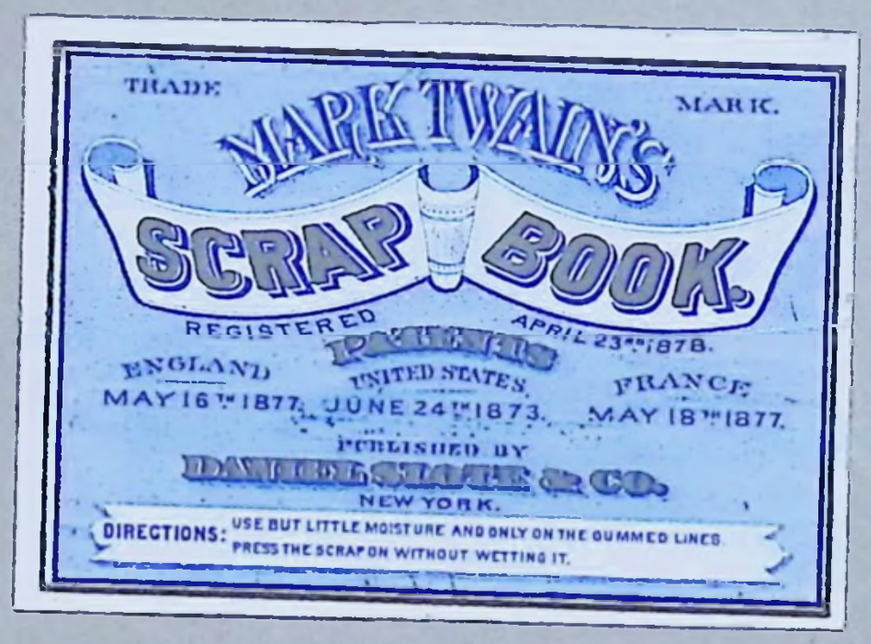
1. Article on Pepp. Park

York Institute Museum
Saco, Maine



WHERE TO ERECT A BUILDING.

Committees of Conference from the City and Thornton Academy.

An Interesting Meeting Which was Open for General Discussion.

The Majority Not in Favor of Pepperell Park as a Location.

An adjourned meeting of two committees, one chosen from the city and the other from among the Thornton Academy trustees, was held in the Saco city council rooms Monday evening, to discuss the matter of a suitable location for the erection of a building. A general invitation had been extended to all citizens interested to be present and participate in the discussion, and some seventy-five or more of our best and most influential men attended. The much talked of Thornton Academy fund will hereafter be better understood by our people as a result of the proceedings of the meeting. The assembly was called to order by Geo. A. Emery, and Mayor Hobson was chosen chairman, but as Alderman Samuel L. Lord, chairman of the committee just then arrived, he succeeded Mr. Hobson. Mr. Lord stated that the object of the meeting was to discuss the matter of a location for an academy to be established and maintained in the city by the Thornton Academy fund. He was pleased to see so many present and such an interest manifested and would be glad to hear remarks upon the subject from any one in the rooms.

On motion of Ex-Mayor Ira H. Foss, Geo. A. Emery was chosen secretary of the meeting.

Alderman Lord then continued his remarks. When the committee had their first meeting they visited Pepperell Park, the lot of Paul C. Sands on the Portland road, the one nearly opposite owned by Mrs. Hill, and the Shepley field near the lower end of Scamman street. All seemed to think it desirable that a union be formed between the city and trustees to establish an academy to take the place of our high school. The present building on the common is not suitable, and is too near the railroad.

C. O. Gerrish wished to know what part of the statutes of the state would warrant the forming of a union between a public and a private corporation.

Hampden Fairfield replied that a meeting can be had between the two committees and that it was now no time to quote statutes, as legal contracts would be made throughout before final action was taken.

Mr. Gerrish thought it boys' play to proceed with the discussion unless they had statutes or the city ordinances to go by. If this was a meeting simply of the committees he had nothing to say, but if it were for the public he should have a good deal to say.

Joseph G. Deering wished to hear debate upon the subject of location, in a broad range, for a building.

Ex-Mayor Ira H. Foss had no personal interest, he said, in the matter, but as a citizen he should be proud to know that we could have as good a school as there is in the State, and one that would be a credit to all of us. He was greatly in favor of a union being formed between the city and the trustees for maintaining the school. For fifteen years the fund has been talked up and people have said "why can't we utilize it? The trustees won't tell us how much there is, nor what they intend to do about it." He knew every one of the trustees and none of them would be personally benefitted; they all had the interests of the city at heart, and would do their best to further them. The fund had now reached a considerable amount and the trustees say to the city that they are ready for action. He was pleased to see so many citizens present, as it showed their interest in the project.

Horace Woodman endorsed the remarks of Mr. Foss, and said the city could invest their money in no better way. We must look beyond the things of to-day. It would be well for the city if the committees could agree at once so that immediate action might be made. In ten years the city would increase in value more than the amount expended on the school, no matter how extravagantly they go into it. Don't let a few hundred or a few thousand dollars stand in the way; the majority of the tax payers are willing to be assessed a little more if the thing can be brought about. But wherever they did decide to build he hoped they would purchase not less than ten acres of land, for in time they would probably want to erect more buildings. His remarks were loudly applauded by the meeting.

Edward P. Burnham was the next speaker. He also was gratified at the interest manifested by the large attendance. He supposed every one had taken it for granted that in a short time we should have to erect a new high school building, the school to be operated by the city unless aid is given from elsewhere. By uniting with the trustees the city will not only receive financial aid but will be benefitted thereby. The city can have more teachers, more apparatus, and better facilities than are at present afforded The location is what we want to now agree upon. The places mentioned are not as near the center as we might desire, but we may want more than one building by and by. We need not necessarily build large enough for all purposes, but erect a fair sized building, then add as it may require. As regards location we don't want the park because we want it for a *park*, and if we use it in that way we do not want buildings upon it. The trustees should have power to control their grounds and no exhibitions or plays be allowed upon them. He believed the idea of Mr. Sweetser, though not stated in his will, was that the money bequeathed for a park be used on the common, because he used the same language in regard to the Wakefield park where they also had the possession of appropriate land. It will be a gain to unite the Academy with our High School and if there is a surplus amount of money left on hand we can use it appropriately in the other schools. The rights of the inhabitants will still be preserved. As many scholars will attend and how can any one be injured? Some greatly oppose passing the control of the school from the city to the hands of the trustees, but they are every one citizens of Saco, and their interests are not against local interests. We can realize a great deal of good from the Thornton Academy fund which has now reached the neighborhood of $80,000 or $90,000. which added to the late Sweetser bequest amounts to a large sum. We will receive a great benefit pecuniarily and educationally; scholars will come in from other towns. We can't expect to grow much through our manufacturing interests; the available water privileges are almost taken up so that any manufactury coming here will have to depend upon steam. We can make the city a pleasant place of residence by establishing good schools and improving the park. If we reject this opportunity it wont come again; because if the matter is thrown up again it wouldn't be encouraging for any one else to bequeathe additional sums. The time has now arrived when we must do something in the matter. When Mr. Deering was Mayor the subject was agitated but the fund was not then large enough nor was the city prepared. The circumstances as are now very different. He did not believe in extravagance but thinks it expedient to erect a good building. It should make no difference whether it be called the Saco High School or the Thornton Academy if we obtain through it the result we wish. If the present trustees pass out, their places will no doubt be filled by gentlemen, and by someone who also will be interested in the city welfare.

Ex Mayor Geo. A. Carter was called upon and expressed his opinions. He believed the large attendance by our citizens was sufficient evidence of the interest they had in the matter. The great trouble seemed to be about the location. A great many were in favor of the park but that was barred out by the trustees and we should agree upon some other location. The city in this matter was in a position where it was to be aided by the trustees, and was therefore the beggar. We could not say you must do so and so, because we are not on equal ground with them; but we should be willing to let them have almost their own way. He, at present, favored no particular location.

C. O. Gerrish took the floor and opposed the remarks of the previous speak-

er. He would not acknowledge the fact that the city is under any obligation to the trustees whatever. It is enough that the city run her own schools. The trustees are dependent upon the city. They have got to depend upon some-body's else children. They must use the money in educational means or otherwise forever remain a speculating corporation.

Mr. Fairfield followed with remarks in which he said he was glad to see such men, (the trustees) with scarcely a child of their own, come forward and show such a unanimous interest in the city's welfare. They could therefore be moved by no personal interest. The city is not the beggar, but rather the trustees. They have the fund on hand and say to the city "Will you accept this gift which we offer?" They don't dictate a location. They think that Pepperell Park is not the place, but they express no feeling of dictation. All should work to the same end. The Park is too near the railroad. Whenever a train goes by, from the time it arrives at the Wakefield field until it goes over the Common street bridge, all recitations in the school must stop on account of the noise. We ought to keep the Common for a Park.

E. P. Sampson, teacher of the high school, corroberated the statement in regard to the noise from the trains.

Mr. Gerrish quoted the scripture in relation to the widow's mite and thought a poor man who paid his taxes should be allowed an equal voice with those who pay larger taxes.

Ex-Mayor Carter again spoke of the relation of the city to the trustees. He said, as citizens, the trustees have their own individual feelings, but as trustees they had the advantage. Each had a right to establish its own school but it is better to unite.

J. F. Dearing was asked for his opinion of a location. He wants a good school and had preferred the park as a place on which to build but on hearing the other side of the question he had changed his mind and was not prepared to give any preference.

Wm. H. Deering said he had thought from the first that the park was the place for the school building, but in looking the various lots over recently, he had decided in favor of either the Paul Sands lot or the Hill lot on the Portland road. The slaughter house being so near might be one objection, but he did not think there would be much trouble from that. The Shapleigh lot on Scamman street was too low, and the tannery near by would also be an objection to that. Everyone cannot be satisfied as regards distance,—what is near for one is too far for another. For himself he would like to have the building located above the Eastern railroad near Foxwell Bryant's, but he was not selfish enough to expect anything of the kind. Any location would satisfy him.

Stephen L. Goodale was called for, but declined to express any opinion.

Ex-Mayor Owen was in favor of the city uniting with the trustees because the latter could conduct a school much better than could a city government which is continually changing.

Alderman Lord said the question of a location was an open question. Pepperell Park was not ruled out, and he wished if any were in favor of it they would not be backward in expressing their opinion. He thought the park the best place. The majority of the scholars who attend would be girls and the Portland road was too far to walk in the winter. Besides, the smell from the slaughter house would be a great objection. If the building were built there the next thing would be a cry to drive Mr. Weymouth, the proprietor, from the business, and he was altogether too good a citizen to be treated in that manner.

James W. Littlefield had heard it said that the trustees would not consent to unite if the park was to be taken in question, but did not know whether it was so or not. He favored the park, as the most centrally located and most economical. Visitors who should come here from out of town would be obliged to board in town and would, thus be very far from the school. How much will it cost for a building to satisfy the trustees? There was a good deal of complaint by the citizens of the cost of the Spring street school house and some had not finished growling about it yet.

Mr. Gerrish then read a lengthy article which he had prepared for publication, but hearing of this meeting he brought it with him and therefore read it. It pronounced the movement of the city and the trustees as a bribery and was strongly opposed to any union between them. The article did not seem to meet with much favor in the meeting.

Another man who opposed the park location was John M. Deering. He thought there would be an enormous cost in filling in the low ground. The academy trustees were among our best citizens and he could trust them to erect a building of their own idea. It had cost but sixty cents to keep the fund and if these trustees could take care of $80,000 a year for only sixty cents he was willing to trust a public school in their hands.

In 1871, said E. P. Burnham, when the Boston & Maine road was built, the city got $3,000 from the company because they claimed the present high school building was ruined by the trains passing so near. Circumstances had not changed. More trains are run now. If the present building should burn he did not think they would erect another on the same spot.

Mr. Lord said the new building could be built at the end of the park and not be disturbed by the cars.

J. F. Stearns said we need a new school at once and he was willing and anxious to pay his part of it if it costs $60,000.

Horace Woodman believed the park was not the place and preferred the Portland road.

J. F. Dearing had always supposed the park was the best location but was now not in favor of it.

Mr. Foss, in behalf of the trustee, said they wanted to unite upon one or two lots and then the trustees would act directly with the city. The trustees do not dictate a location but only oppose the park.

Geo. A. Wentworth read the names of the trustees and said he would willingly trust them for action.

The following are the names as read. Capt. R. F. C. Hartley, Ira H. Foss, E. P. Morgan, Joseph Hobson, John C. Bradbury, Chas. Twambley, John Chadwick, Hampden Fairfield, Seth Scammon, Geo. A. Emery, Joseph G. Deering, Tristam Scammon, Geo. F. Calef, Calvin F. Gordan, B. F. Hamilton.

James M. Bailey supervisor of schools, was partially in favor of the park on ac of good location and air, but thought it too near the railroad.

E. P. Sampson, teacher of the high school, advised them not to build upon the park but rather to select a quiet street. The trains interrupted the schools sometimes for an hour while dumping rails etc.

Mr. Straw, of the grammar school, upheld the former in his opinion.

Further remarks were made by Geo. A. Carter, Ira H. Foss, John M. Deering, Horace Woodman, W. H. Deering, J. W. Littlefield, Charles Hersey, L. O. Straw, J. G. Deering, A. W. Hewes and Geo. F. Owen. A vote was finally taken to see whether those present were in favor of the park, and the result was about three to one in opposition to the park as a building location.

The meeting then adjourned, and the committees, composed of J. G. Deering, Ira H. Foss, Geo. A. Emery and Geo. F. Calef from the trustees, and Mayor Hobson, Aldermen Lord and Hanson, and Councilmen Freeman and Cheney for the city, arranged to meet one week from Monday evening.

Special Saco City Meeting.

May 12 —— 1884

The Thornton Academy Question—Election of a Board of Park Commissioners.

A special meeting of the Saco city government occurred Monday evening. All the aldermen were in their seats and nearly a full board was present in the lower room. There were thirteen visitors in attendance, many of them being prominent business men of the city.

Seleucus Adams was granted permission to connect the sewer on the Johnson lot on High street with the main sewer.

The committee on finance, who were instructed at the last meeting to fix the salaries of the subordinate city officers, reported as follows:

City Clerk,	$550
Auditor,	150
Solicitor,	50
City Physician,	40
Supervisor of Schools,	250
Health Committee,	35
Chief Engineer of Fire Dep't,	150
Asst. " " " $75 each,	150
City Marshal,	100
Chairman Overseers of Poor,	125
Second " "	20
Third " "	5

Assessors $2. per day when actually employed.

Street Commissioner, District No. 4, $500.

Districts 1. 2, 3, 5, 6, $1.50 per day when actually employed.

Drivers of city teams $2. per day.

Night watchmen, $2. per night.

Day police, $1.50 per day.

Clerk Common Council, $40.

The committee on streets were instructed to inquire into the expediency of purchasing a gravel pit near the Old Orchard slate quarry.

A communication from the Thornton Academy trustees committee was read. It stated that they had voted that either the Paul C. Sands lot, the Hill lot or either of the tier of lots next southwesterly of these lots, on Main street, were suitable for the erection of an academy building. The communication was accepted.

Alderman Parcher then read an order instructing the city committee to ascertain the price of the lots mentioned in the majority report, and other lots which they may deem suitable for building locations, and report as soon as convenient to the city council. Alderman S. L. Lord thought this order rather premature as the city committee report had not yet been read and on his motion it was laid upon the table.

C. O. Gerrish petitioned through Alderman S. L. Lord, that the Thornton Academy trustees be allowed no further action with the city until a general meeting of the citizens could be held for a full discussion on the matter of a so called union. Alderman S. L. Lord, said the petitioner seemed to doubt the night of the union between the city and the trustees, and on his motion it was referred to the city solicitor for an opinion. Mr. Gerrish was present and made a lengthy speech on the merits of his petition. He suggested a town meeting be called and a general vote of the citizens be taken in the matter. He was greatly opposed to building a school house at such a distance from the city centre, pronouncing it "simply absurd."

An ordinance to be added to the city charter in relation to park commissioners was read by Alderman Hanson. It stated that three park commissioners should be chosen annually who should, without charge, have control and supervision of the public parks of the city. It also gave a lengthy detail of the duties of said commissioners. The ordinance passed both boards and was then passed to be enrolled.

It seems that the committee chosen from the city to confer with the committee of Thornton Academy trustees, were divided in their opinions in regard to a location for the erection of a school building, and two reports were handed in for action—one a majority, signed by Mayor Hobson, and Councilmen Freeman and Cheney, and the other a minority report by Aldermen S. L. Lord and Hanson. The majority report was read by the Mayor and accepted by the board. It read as follows: It is, in our opinion highly desirable that the city should unite with the trustees of the Thornton Academy, in organizing and maintaining a school. That either of the following described lots, is suitable for the location of a school building:

The lot of Paul C. Sands on Main street that of Mrs Chas. Hill together with the tier of lots on the south westerly side of Main street.

The objection to Pepperell Park by the committee of trustees seems sufficient to us for rejecting it from further consideration, as a proper place for a school building.

The minority report was then presented by Alderman S. L. Lord. It read as follows:

"While we fully believe in the wisdom and desirability of effecting the proposed union, in alliance with the will of the late Cornelius Sweetser, upon such corrections and additional terms as may hereafter be agreed upon, we must beg leave to differ with the majority in regard to a location for the proposed academy building for the following reasons:

First, Both lots proposed by the majority are too far from the city proper either to accommodate the students, or to become an ornament to the city, should the building be placed upon either of them.

Second, The lots are expensive, and the amounts asked for either of them can much more appropriately be expended in other ways.

Third, One of the proposed lots being in close proximity to a slaughter house, tallow and soap factory, the health and comfort of both pupils and teachers would be endangered and the usefulness of the school greatly impaired, should the academy building be placed thereon. And we entertain grave doubts as to whether or not the other lot named by the majority is not subject to the same serious objections. And we are firmly of the opinion, that should the academy building be located upon either of the lots recommended by the majority, such action would prove a source of deep regret in all time to come.

For the following reasons, we earnestly recommended that Pepperell Park, so called, be selected as the site for the proposed Academy building:

First, The Park, being the property of the city, an expensive outlay incident to any other lot would be happily avoided.

Second, It is located in desirable proximity to the city proper and the building would become an ornament to the city.

Third, The location is very healthy, and after the twenty thousand dollars, already donated, and voted, shall have been expended upon the Park, in beautifying it, this location cannot fail to become at once, an attractive, healthy and highly desirable site for the proposed building.

Adapted by nature to the purpose, when the art of man shall have rendered it attractive, we can conceive of no place within the limits of the city that will so completely fill every requirement in the matter of location, as will Pepperell Park.

The report was accepted and Alderman Hanson motioned that it be substituted for the majority report and adopted. Alderman Parcher did not sanction this movement. He said if the school building is built upon this park, the executors of the Sweetser will would refuse to pay over the amount to the city. Alderman Lord said he did not understand how they could refuse if the requirments of the will were complied with. Mr. Parcher replied that the will read "for a public park" not for school grounds. The executors have the advice of a good counsel and they say they are not obliged to pay over the money if the school building is to be built upon it. He was afraid if the matter was pushed further it would defeat both plans. He had consulted several of the trustees and they were decidedly opposed to Pepperell Park. Mr. Lord thought the remarks of Mr. Parcher were wholly out of place. Nothing had been heard from the trustees except individually and he did not believe in the individual opinions of the trustees being brought in to influence the board. A yea and nay vote was taken on the question of adopting the minority report which resulted in two in favor and five against the motion.

On motion of Alderman A. T. Lord the majority report was adopted by a vote of five to two.

On motion of Alderman Parcher the previous order, instructing the committee to ascertain the prices of suitable building lots, was taken from the table and passed.

Word was then received from the board of councilmen that they had concurred in the passing of the park commission ordinance. It had been also examined and approved by the committee on enrolled bills and on motion of Alderman Hanson rule 15 was suspended and it was passed to be ordained.

Both boards then met in joint convention to elect three park commissioners. Alderman Hanson and councilmen Morrison and Deland were appointed a committee to receive, sort and count votes. Geo. F. Calef, Franklin Nourse and Benj. N. Goodale were elected to serve as commissioners.

Adjourned.

Rev. Dr. Newman Smyth of New Haven was robbed of his pocketbook at the College race at New London.

The Contract Entered Into by the City and the Water Company.

At the request of a number of readers of the JOURNAL we publish today, the following contract entered into by the city and the Biddeford and Saco Water company relating to the introduction of water into this city:

CONTRACT OF BIDDEFORD AND SACO WATER COMPANY WITH CITY OF BIDDEFORD.

This memorandum of agreement made and entered into at Biddeford, in the State of Maine, this third day of January, A. D., 1884, by and between the city of Biddeford, a body corporate and politic, established by law, by the mayor of said city, hereunto duly authorized by vote of the city council, approved March 24, 1884, and acting within the scope of said other party of the first part and the Biddeford and Saco Water company, a corporation established and organized under the laws of the State of Maine and having a place of business at Biddeford, party of the second part.

Witnesseth, That for the consideration hereinafter mentioned, the party of the second part agrees with the party of the first part that water from Saco river shall be introduced into said city of Biddeford by a twenty (20) inch hydraulic main, within one year from January 1st, 1884, and shall lay before October 1st, 1886, not less than the following quantities of pipe in addition to the twenty inch main, viz: 40 0 feet of sixteen (16) or twelve (12) inch pipe, 10,000 feet of eight (8) inch pipe, 10,000 feet of six (6) inch pipe, 6000 feet of four (4) inch pipe, and that said party of the second part will furnish water for the extinguishment of fires for such members of post hydrants not less than forty (40) as said first party may locate at any time on any street or place where said company may locate and lay down its pipes while the works are under construction and until January 1st, 1886, and order set with suitable gates, pipes and connections, so as to connect said hydrants with the pipes of the company. All hydrants, gates, pipes and connections required by said city until January 1st, 1886, shall be furnished, and the work done at the sole expense of the party of the second part, provided, however, that after Jan 1st, 1886, the said city may at its own expense furnish hydrants, gates, and pipes, and lay the same ready to be connected by said company with its pipes, and said company shall connect the same at expense of said city.

Said party of the first part agrees to pay said second party for each and every hydrant set by said company or by said city and maintained and kept in good repair by said company the sum of fifty (50) dollars per annum payable in advance, one half each in the first day of July and January of each year, until July 1, 1895, provided, that after July 1, 1895, all hydrants shall become the property of said city and shall be maintained and kept in repair at the expense of said city.

The said company shall furnish all hydrants owned by said city with water for extinguishment of fires after July 1 1895, without charge being made to said city; said party of the second part also agrees to furnish said party of the first part without charge being made there for water for three (3) drinking fountains for man and beast, the flow of water to be sufficient for a supply of water for said fountains, also five (5) cup fountains with self closing cocks to be used for persons only; all said fountains to be furnished, set and connected with the pipes of said company at the expense of said city.

In consideration of the premises, the party of the first part agrees to exempt the property of said corporation necessary and used for the purposes of supplying water under its charter, and its capital stock from taxation for the term of thirty years from Oct 1st, 1883; and during the said thirty years the said company shall have the exclusive right to lay pipes in the streets of said city, for supplying water for municipal, domestic and manufacturing purposes, and to establish tariff rates therefor, and said company agrees to furnish said city with water during said time, for the purposes above enumerated; but in case of accident or the extension of said works, time is to be given for repairs and making said extensions.

It is further mutually agreed that the water to be furnished as above specified, shall be supplied and regulated by such reasonable rules and regulations as said company may establish for its management, provided that the location and elevation of the reservoir, at the time of its location, shall be satisfactory to the committee on water, but it shall not be less than two hundred feet above mean low tide to the top of the cap stone, and that the kind of post hydrant to be adopted and set in said city shall be satisfactory to the committee on fire department.

In the event of any dispute or disagreement which may hereafter arise between the city of Biddeford and the said water company by reason of this agreement or any other cause which may occur between the said water company and city, it shall be settled by reference to three disinterested men, one to be selected by said city, one to be selected by said company, and the third to be selected by the two parties already named, and their decision when made shall be final and binding upon both parties.

The party of the second part reserve the right to annul this contract, provided said party of the second part cannot within six months from Jan. 1, 1884, for a satisfactory compensation acquire, from the corporations claiming to own the water of said river for manufacturing purposes, the right to take and use the water of Saco river for the purposes named in the charter of the party of the second part.

In witness whereof we have hereunto interchangeably set our hands and seals this third day of January, A. D., 1884.

BIDDEFORD AND SACO WATER COMPANY.
by J. R. GILMAN, President,
GEO. P. WESCOTT, Treasurer,
E. W. STAPLES, Mayor.

Countersigned by
N. B WALKER, City Solicitor.

Sudden Death of a Bowdoin College Graduate.

1885

WISCASSET, March 23.

Col. Benjamin F. Smith, chairman of the selectmen, died suddenly at 2 p. m. of heart disease. He was the last of the family of Governor Smith.

[Mr. Smith was born in Wiscasset in February 1842. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1863. He studied law with Melville W. Fuller of Chicago, was admitted to the bar, and entered upon the practice in that city. In 1871 he returned to his native town. He was assistant judge advocate on the staff of Gov. Garcelon, and was at one time attorney of Lincoln county. He was for several years on the school committee. He had published addresses and poems. He leaves a widow and four children. ED.]

Will of Mrs. Mary Jane Ayer.

Bequests to Several Saco Residents, and Uses Specified for the Balance.

Previous to the death of Mrs. Mary Jane Ayer, which recently occurred in Saco, reports became general that she had bequeathed handsome sums to several worthy persons, who had kindly administered to her wants in sickness and old age, so that at the time of her death the nature of her will was a matter of general interest. Below we cheerfully give a copy as it was presented for probate:

Know all men by these presents that I, Mary Jane Ayer, of Saco, in the County of York and State of Maine, widow, do make this my last will and testament. I nominate as Executor of this my last will and testament, Wm. Rhodes, of said Saco, blacksmith.

I bequeath five hundred dollars to Michael B. Tarbox, of Biddeford, as he is to take care of my remains and bury the same in the burial lot belonging to him without charge therefor. I provide that my Executor procure a monument worth five hundred dollars and place the same over my remains, also that he provide grave stones for my father and mother, Benjamin Cleaves and Sarah Cleaves in Kennebunkport, and also grave stones for Benjamin Cleaves of Saco. I give my half sister Mrs. Esther Thompson, one dollar. I bequeath five hundred dollars to Clara Durgin, daughter of Enoch W. Durgin, of Saco.

I bequeath one hundred dollars to said Enoch W. Durgin.

I bequeath two hundred dollars to Mrs. Almira Rhodes, wife of Mr. Wm. Rhodes aforesaid.

I bequeath one hundred dollars to Mrs. Baxter, widow of Rev. John Baxter, a Methodist clergymen, for whom the Baxter school is named.

I make said William Rhodes, my residuary legatee, for the use of himself and family, and desire him to attend to my affairs also before the probating of this will.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name this twelfth day of February, eighteen hundred and eighty-four.

her
(Signed) MARY JANE X AYER.
mark

Signed, published and declared by the said Mary Jane Ayer, as and for her last will and testament in presence of us, who at her request and in her sight and presence and in the presence of each other subscribe our names as witnesses thereto.

(Signed) EDWARD P. BURNHAM,
J. E. L. KIMBALL,
HIRAM W. HARMON.

For Representative.

	Emery	Smart
Ward 1,	155	111
" 2,	115	86
" 3,	159	93
" 4,	103	122
" 5,	67	58
" 6,	123	94
" 7,	157	70
	869	634
	0000	0000

Ward 4, O. C. Clark, for Representative, 1

Following is a copy of the deed given the proprietors of the Saco Aqueduct Company in 1823. It will be read with interest at this time:

Know all men by these presents, that we Thomas Cutts, of Biddeford, gentleman, Thomas G. Thornton, Esquire, and Sarah his wife in her right, Dominicus Cutts, merchant, Samuel Nye, gentleman, and Eunice his wife in her right, Tristram Hooper, and Elizabeth his wife in her right, William Cutts, gentleman, and Marianne Cutts, single woman, all of Saco, in the County of York, for and in consideration of the sum of five dollars to us in hand paid by the proprietors of the Saco Aqueduct, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby remise, release, bargain, grant, sell and convey and forever quitclaim unto the said proprietors of the Saco Aqueduct, their successors and assigns, all our right, title and interest in and to a certain piece or parcel of land situate in Saco aforesaid, containing one square rod, and bounded as follows, viz:—Beginning at a stake in the run or brook on the farm now improved by Benjamin Wakefield, about thirty rods above the road leading from the Buxton road to said Wakefield's house, near an old spring, thence running sixteen and an half feet South to a stake, thence West sixteen and an half feet to a stake, thence sixteen and an half feet North to a stake, thence sixteen and an half feet East to the bounds begun at; for the purpose of getting a fountain of water for an aqueduct, together with the right of digging a ditch from said fountain to said Buxton road down said run or brook for the purpose of conducting the water from said fountain in leaden pipes; also the right or privilege for said proprietors at all times, to go to or from said fountain and any part of said Aqueduct for the purpose of examining and repairing the same, and also the right of taking water from any spring or springs in said run or brook between said fountain and said Buxton road. And it is understood by all concerned that the right of using water for all the purposes and uses of said farm is reserved to it, and whoever may own it, forever, provided no unnecessary waste is to be made to the proprietors aforesaid, and no cattle are to be watered at or any water taken directly from the fountain, but the proprietors are to see that whoever may live on said farm shall never suffer for water in consequence of said aqueduct.

To have and to hold the above described rights and privileges to said proprietors, their successors and assigns, so long as they shall use them for the purpose aforesaid.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this thirteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty-three.

T. G. THORNTON,
SALLY THORNTON,
SAMUEL NYE,
EUNICE NYE,
DOMINICUS CUTTS,
TRISTRAM HOOPER,
ELIZABETH HOOPER,
WILLIAM CUTTS,
MARIANNE CUTTS.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

MARY E. NYE, witness to Samuel and Eunice Nye.

Witness: JAMES R. BRYANT,
JAMES R. BRYANT,
ANN ELIZABETH HOOPER,
RICARRD C. THORNTON,
TRISTRAM HOOPER, JR.

YORK ss. SACO, October 10th, 1823.

Personally appeared Tristram Hooper, Thomas G. Thornton, Samuel Nye, Elizabeth Hooper, Dominicus Cutts and William Cutts and acknowledged the above instrument by them signed to be their free act and deed.

Before me, LAURISTON WARD,
Justice of the Peace.

YORK ss. Saco, October 17th, 1823.

Personally appeared Sally Thornton and Eunice Nye and acknowledged the above instrument by them signed to be their free act and deed.

Before me, LAURISTON WARD,
Justice of the Peace.

Recorded according to the original received October 21, 1823.

Attest: JEREMIAH GOODWIN,
Register.

YORK ss. REGISTRY OF DEEDS.
Sept. 9, A. D. 1882.

A true copy of record, Book 113, pages 123-4.

Attest: ASA L. RICKER, Register.

THE EMERY FAMILY.

Their Annual Gathering—The Names Registered—The Exercises at Fraternity Hall—Poem by Brainerd P. Emery.

The reunion of the Emery family was held at Fraternity Hall on Wednesday, being an adjournment of a meeting held in the same place a year ago. The object being to consider the means and methods of collecting the material, and publishing a genealogy of the family. There were about seventy persons present, men and women, of whom the following registered their names:

EMERY:—
William C., East Boston,
James, Charlestown,
John C., Montpelier, Vt.,
Mary, South Berwick, Me.,
Lewis, Jr., Bradford, Pa.,
Rose B., Beverly,
Rev. Rufus, Newburg, (Orange Co.) New York.
Rev. Samuel Hopkins, Taunton,
Frederick A., Boston,
Olive S., South Berwick, Me.,
Miss Lois, South Berwick, Me.,
Rev. E. J., Greenville, N. H.,
Capt. M. M., Newcastle, N. H.,
Samuel D., Turner's Falls,
Harriet A., Turner's Falls,
Miss Jane T., Beverly,
Mrs. Amelia A., Boston,
John J., Turner's Falls,
Wm. D., Boston,
Margaret J., West Newbury,
Olive S., South Berwick, Me.,
Calvin, West Newbury,
James I., East Weymouth,
John S., Boston,
Thomas J., Boston,
Edwin, New Bedford,
Dr. S. E., West Newbury,
Mark P., Portland, Me.,
Mrs. Mark P., Portland, Me.,
Bradbury, Miss Hattie C., Buxton, Me.
Tibbits, Mrs. Oliver, Newmarket, N. H.,
Trask, Mrs. Laura E., Beverly,
" Mabel A., "
Morse, Cynthia A., Lowell,
Bradley, J. C., Danville, N. H.,
Young, Hannah, Great Falls, N. H.,
Knapp, Helen M., Lowell,
" Mason, "
Dow, Abbie S., Annisquam,
Durgin, Lydia E., West Newbury,
Brown, Clementine E., Haverhill,
Bradley, Mary E., Danville, N. H.,
Stickney, Betsey E., Lowell,
Currier, Stephen and wife, Haverhill,
Williams, Lydia J. E., Merrimacport,
Dennett, Geo. Wm., M. D., South Framingham.

The assembly was called to order a little before noon, by the president, Rev. Rufus Emery, who called upon Rev. Samuel Hopkins Emery to open the exercises with prayer, and in closing the whole family joined in repeating the Lord's prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of one year ago in the same place were then read by the secretary, Thomas J. Emery. The president announced that the next thing in order was the reports of committees, and the only report was that of the Genealogical committee of which the president was himself chairman. He said the committee had been at work for three years, and though they had amassed a great pile of material there were still great gaps. He had himself a thousand pages of notes, another member of the committee as much and another nearly as much, but a great deal more was needed, and he urged each member of the family to search old account books, records and family documents and send to the committee in order that the genealogy as published should be complete and accurate.

Mr. Thomas J. Emery, the secretary and treasurer, and another member of the committee thought the president was too sanguine. He had written numerous letters to members of the Emery family in York county, Me., and had never received but one reply and that was a postal card acknowledging the receipt of his letter. There was much material in the records of that county, especially at Alfred, and also in the records at Exeter, N. H., but that it required the work of an expert, and they would not get the genealogy finished in 1885 unless such an one should be employed. They would never get it through by writing letters and depending upon each one to furnish his share of information.

Rev. E. J. Emery, another member of the committee, agreed with the previous speaker, and said he knew the man for the work, and if the name was called for, he would give it. There were calls for the name, and it was that of Mr. Edwin Emery of New Bedford.

Mr. Edwin Emery said that he was willing to do the work if his expenses were paid, as he would give his time. He had done a good deal in hunting over the records, and he had a long vacation from the first of June to the middle of September, and next year he could attend to it, but not before, as he could not leave his work except in the vacation season.

Mr. John S. Emery of Boston, said that five of those present had subscribed $25 for this purpose, and friends in the family in Boston had also promised to subscribe, and the paper would be passed around for further subscription from those present.

The officers of last year were re-elected and Lewis Emery of Bradford, Pa., was added to the executive committee.

At the dinner, by J. F. Morrill, one of the best of caterers, an address of welcome was made by the President and speeches were made by Mark P. Emery of Portland, Francis Emery of Boston, Rev. S. H. Emery of Taunton, John J. Emery of Turner's Falls, Wm. D. Emery of Boston, Edwin Emery of New Bedford, Rev. E. J. Emery of Granville, N. H., Lewis Emery of Bradford, Pa. The following poem was also read and with the dinner the exercises closed:

Our Ancestors.

BY BRAINERD P. EMERY.

In the dim, dark nooks of history,
In the deep alcoves of time,
Slumbers many a pleasant memory
Of another age and clime;

Memories dear of men before us,
Who have toiled for long, long years,
Thinking naught of life-long labor,
Casting by all dread and fears.

Then our fathers, long before us,
Came from England's royal shore;
Bent on finding freedom's beauty
In our land, forever more.

In Columbia landed they soon,
Built their homes mid towering trees;
Long they labored with their axes,
As o'erhead low sang the breeze.

Towering mountain monarchs falling
Shook the earth full many a time,
As they labored long and fiercely
In New England's pleasant clime.

Built they huts for homely comfort,
Worshipped God in humble way;
Yet sincere their words and praises,
That they uttered day by day.

From the tower of Romsey, England,
Brothers two set forth to find
Homes and fortunes in our free land,—
They were brave in heart and mind.

Anthony and John, the brothers,
Came to Freedom's happy shore;
Kittery and Newbury's township
Holds their memories evermore.

For within these two bright hamlets
Settled they, and built their homes,
'Neath the forest's leafy mantle,
'Neath fair Nature's verdant domes.

Here they toiled and gained their fortunes,
Laboring hard the live-long day.
May their memories never perish,
But exist as bright for aye!

Let us think of them this morning,
As together brethren stand,
Locked together in true friendship—
Link of hearts so wondrous, grand.

Join our hearts in true affection,
Brother true, to brother be;
Let an Emery to his kinsman
Ever remain in fealty.

Join our hearts and hands together,
Let us welcome all today—
Come, attend our glad reunion!
Let us all be glad and gay!

Welcome! welcome! let us say,
On this glad reunion day!

Newburgh, N. Y., Sept. 6, 1883.

PEPPERELL PARK.

The Work of Construction Fairly Under Way.

One Hundred and Thirty-Two Years of its History—Musty Deeds and Documents That Have Never Before been Published—Interesting Facts Gleaned From Various Sources.

On the ninth day of October, 1752, just one hundred and thirty-two years ago the present month, Sir William Pepperell, Baronet, residing in the town of Kittery, who was one of the most extensive land owners in the district of Maine, so called, conveyed to the little settlement where Saco now stands, and which was then known as Biddeford, six acres of land, being a portion of the present Pepperell park, to be used as a burying ground and as a location for a school and meeting house, the following being a copy of the deed then given, the contents of which and of the documents following have never appeared in print before, and were recently discovered in the office of the Secretary of State, at Boston:

"To all People to whom these presents shall come:

Know ye that I, Sir William Pepperell, of Kittery, in the county of York, Baronet, for and in consideration of the inhabitance of the east side of Saco river building a meeting house for the public worship of God, and there settling an Orthodox minister in the congregational way and manner, as by the law of this province established, and for a burying place and for setting up a school house and for no other use or end whatsoever; the said Sir William doth by these presents give, grant, bargain and confirm for the use aforesaid, four acres of land as hereafter bounded, and two acres more for which I have received in full for from Robert Gray, of Biddeford, in said county of York, yoeman. The whole six acres is bounded viz. Beginning next to said Gray's land by the present highway, and runs from there by the said highway about northwest, twelve rods; and from thence northeast eighty rods; and from thence twelve rods to the said Gray's land, and by the said Gray's land southwest to the first beginning. And the said inhabitants are forever hereafter to keep up, maintain and support at their own cost and charge, a good and lawful fence all round every part of said land; and upon this and the aforesaid considerations the said lands is to have and to hold unto the inhabitants of the east side of Saco river, within the said town of Biddeford, and their heirs and successors, for the uses aforesaid and for no other use whatsoever, from henceforth forward forever.

In witness whereoff I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this ninth day of October, 1752. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of John Hanson, Daniel Grow.

{L. S.} WM. PEPPERELL.

YORK, ss. October 9, 1752.—This day the above named Wm. Pepperell personally appeared and acknowledged this instrument to be his free act and deed. Before Richard Cutt, Jr., Justice Peace."

The first person to be buried in that portion of the above land set apart as a burying ground, was the wife of Robert Gray, from whom a portion of the land was purchased by Sir William, and whose death occurred upon the day following the signing of the deed. The old slate headstone, which bears the appearance of many years of neglect, still remains, and may be been near the northwest side of the ground, and is inscribed thus:

"Here lies ye body of
MRS. JANE GRAY,
WIFE OF MR. ROBERT
GRAY, WHO DIED
October ye 10th, 1752,
Aged 69 years.

Shortly after the granting of the above lot of land to the town the eastern parish set about to erect a meeting house upon the lot, which was, however, not finished until 1757, and was located near where the high school building now stands. It was a large two storied structure, and the first meeting house erected on that side of the river; here it remained until about the year 1825, when it was torn down.

In 1759 Sir William Pepperell died in possession of immense estates and owning five thousand five hundred acres of land in this vicinity, the property after his death devising to his grandson, William Pepperell Sparhawk. Three years following the death of Sir William that portion of the town of Biddeford located on the east side of the river (now Saco) was incorporated under the name of Pepperellborough, by act of the General Court of Massachusetts. This property was all confiscated in 1779 while the revolutionary war was in progress on account of young Sparhawk adhering to the interest of the Crown.

At the session of the General Court of Massachusetts in 1798 an act passed on the ninth day of February of that year gave to the town of Pepperellborough ten acres of land to be used as a training field, burying ground and upon which to build a meeting house. The next year David Sewell was appointed as agent to lay out in lots and dispose of the lands of the late Sir William Pepperell, within the district of Maine, first locating the ten acres above mentioned, nine acres of which was located adjoining the six acres given by Sir William in 1752, and one acre where the Congregational church now stands, at the corner of Beach and Main streets. The following is a copy of the resolve appointing Mr. Sewell as agent, or committee, his report to the General Court after carrying out its instructions, and a copy of the deed conveying the ten acres to the town of Pepperellborough by the General Court of Massachusetts;

Act passed June 22d 1799.

RESOLVED that the Hon. David Sewell be a committee to obtain an accurate survey of all the lands and other real estate that has accrued to the commonwealth lying in District of Maine, late the property of Sir William Pepperell and cause the same to be laid out into lots and dispose of them in such manner, with such terms of credit upon good security, as they shall judge meet for the interest of said commonwealth, first locating ten acres of said lands to the town of Pepperellborough for the purpose of a training field and burying ground, be agreable to a resolve passed the ninth day of February 1798; provided, the sale by public auction on the premises, after due notice given by publishing the same in one or more newspapers in the vicinity where the land lies, and the said committee are hereby authorized to make good and sufficient deed, or deeds, to any person, or persons, purchasing said lands, and to enquire into all the demands the state has against any persons, for rents due for the use of premises, and to take such measures for the collection of the same as to the said committee shall appear proper; and the said committee are hereby further authorized and empowered to enquire into the claim or claims, which any person, or persons, may have upon said lands or upon houses or buildings erected thereon, and the same to adjust and decide in such way and manner as shall appear fit and equitable between the commonwealth and the claimant or claimants, and are required to make report of their doings at the next session of the General Court.

Report of Mr. Sewell:

"The lands confiscated to the Massachusetts commonwealth from the estate of Sir William Pepperell in the town of Pepperellborough which by the death of the widow Eliza Sparhawk comes to the government are

1.—Half a double sawmill with half the land and priveledges thereunto belonging, this Priveledge as it is called, may be 4 or 5 acres and is in common and undivided, except the particular piling places and the parts of the mill.

2ly The lot of land adjoining to the river and the mill priviledge in the division of Saco lands, called 80 rods wide, and extending back wedth northeast two mile, more or less to the middle line of the Patent so called, Contains about 320 acres in quantity,—Six acres of this being a Strip 12 Rods Wide & 80 Rods long, Sir William deceased, conveyed by Deed to the Inhabitance of Biddeford on the East Side of Saco River, adjoining Mr. Gray's land (Oct. 9th, 1752,) upon which the Pepperell Meeting House now stands.

There is also the claim of John Phillips, son of John Phillips, deceased, to 50 acres, more or less, by Virtue of a Deed (not now to be found) said to have been given by Sir Wm. to John Phillips the Father deceased, who actually entered upon the land 50 or 60 years ago—built a House & made improvements, died upon the Premises—and the son John there resides and improves to this Day.

The improvements are adjoining the Post Road, leading to Scarboro, & in somewhat of an irregular form. Were he to be quieted with 50 or 60 acres, to take in his small buildings & the principal part of his improvements, and to run quite across the Lott, it might accommodate him, and be the least prejudicial to the residue. To oust him (if it were practicable) would have the appearance of injustice; as Col. Sparhawk & others who have had the care of the lands, and had opportunities of knowing the circumstances, never molested the Father, or the Son, in the improvement.

The Government, it is said, have granted the Town of Pepperellborough, Ten acres which is unlocated.

If the Ten acres were taken adjoining the Six acres it would make a Strip 20 Rods in Weadth 80 Rods long, and Include the place where Col. Cutts has built a tomb and be as convenient & usefull perhaps to the Town, as any part of the tract.

3ly. The Ridlon Lot, so called, in Pepperellborough is 3-4 of a mile or more, below the

mill lot—was laid out 44 Rods Wide & two mile long, or to the middle line of the Patent a small one story House on it—Suppose 2 & 300 acres in general of an inferior quality.

The value of the land called the mill lot will be greator or less to government, in some measure, as they may be disposed of.

The land adjoining the Post Road for 80 or 100 Rods, are conveniently Situated for Lotts for Houses & Stores, and should they be sold out in lotts from 1-2 to 1 1-2 acres It would accommodate a number of Individuals, some of whom have small buildings now standing thereon; and be within the pecuniary powers of some who could have no pretention of purchasing the whole.

The Saco mill & Priveledge has been esteemed very Valuable—But there are so many other mills in the Vicinity, that the Value of these are much lessened. There are several Buildings & some of Value on parts of the mill Priveledge. It is proble the mill & Priveledge may be Worth or fetch between 80 & 90 dolls a day. There are 24 Days in a mill.

4ly. in the Town of Arundell (now Kennebunkport) is a small Farm of 40 or 50 acres, in the improvement of Benj. Goodwin, of whom & his Brother Nathan'l it was purchased in 1758 and this Benjamin, has lived on it as a Tenant ever since. A small House & Barn are on this Farm, the Port Road Passes thro' it. The Rent of this Tract has been about 20 Dollars free of every Expense annually."

The records show that Mr. Sewell was discharged from further service as committee and his accounts accepted Februrary 11th, 1801.

Following is a copy of the deed conveying ten acres of land to the town of Pepperellborough, in November, 1799, by the General Court of Massachusetts, for the purposes therein described.

"To all unto whom these presents shall come, —Greeting:

Whereas the commonwealth of Massachusetts, by a resolve passed in February, 1798, did grant to the town of Pepperellborough, from the lands that to them accrued from Sir William Pepperell, ten acres, for the purpose of placing a meeting house, and for a training field and burying ground, and afterwards, by a resolve passed the 22nd day of June, 1799, did authorize the undersigned to locate the same. Now know ye, that after viewing the said lands and their situation, and advising thereon, in pursuance of the power and authority to me committed by the last- mentioned resolve, I have located one acre, part of the ten, in a suitable place, for erecting a meeting house upon the southeast side of the Post road leading to Scarborough, where it is intersected by the road passing over the Mill lot from Buxton Corner, so called. This acre is ten rods in width on the said Post road, commencing at the angle of intersection and continuing that width on the northeast side of the said cross road (& to which it adjoins S. westerly) sixteen rods,—

And nine acres, the residue of the said ten, in the Mill lot, so called, in the form of a parallelogram, for burying ground and a training field, continuous unto, and adjoining the six acres the inhabitants of said town purchased of Sir William Pepperell, now deceased, in the month of October, 1752.

These nine acres are bounded as follows, Viz:—Beginning at the south western corner of the road six acres, at the road leading from the mill privilege to Mr. James Gray's; from thence extending upon said road N. Westerly eighteen rods; thence Northeast or on a line parallel with the said six acres, at eighteen rods distance therefrom eighty rods: thence southeast eighteen rods to the northwest corner of the said six acres, thence southwest by the six acres aforesaid to the beginning.

These nine, with the six acres, constitute a lot of thirty rods by eighty. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the 30th day of November 1799.

Signed Sealed & delivered in presence of us,

{ L. S. }

Andrew McMiller Spring,
David Sewell,
Cyrus King,
Seth Storer.

At the time of the transfer of this land the town of Pepperellborough was still sparsely settled. What is now Main Street in Saco was called the Port Road and there were only thirteen buildings standing upon the southeast side of the road between what is now known as Pepperell Square and Beach Street, and the buildings were known as follows:—Granger's store, Page's shop, Hersey's shop, Randall's house, Allen's house, Flood's house, Dearborn's house, Goodwin's house, Mason's house, Swaine's house, Tappan's house, Page's house, and a small schoolhouse. What is now Middle street was then called First street, and contained only one dwelling; High street was called Second street and was wholly uninhabited. Common street was then known as the road to the meeting house and contained thirteen dwelling houses including those then in Pepperell square.

In 1805 the name of the town was changed to Saco, which it has borne since. In 1811 Thomas Cutts, Thomas G. Thornton and others petitioned the General court for permission to build an Academy, which was granted, and the following year the Saco Academy was erected near the spot where the vestry of the Unitarian church now stands, upon the common. It consisted of a one story building twelve feet high, forty-two feet long, thirty feet wide, with two chimneys. The first school opened January 4th, 1813, with forty-nine scholars. The boys took care of the fire and rang the bell, and the girls were obliged to sweep the rooms every day.

The name of the first preceptor was Asa Lyman. To become admitted to the Academy it was necessary for the applicant to be introduced by some well known and responsible person The names, residences and ages of the scolars attending the first term at the Academy, are as follows: Daniel Townsend, Saco, 27; Thomas Bourne, Kennebunk, 14; Moses Bradbury, Jr. Biddeford, 19; Wm. W. Cleaves, Saco, 19; Daniel Cole, Jr. Saco, 15; Daniel Cleaves, Saco, 18; Rufus Dunham, Biddeford, 21; John Foss, Jr, 18; Charles W. French, Saco, 21; Daniel Goodwin, Biddeford, 18; Daniel Green, Dover, 15; Thomas Hooper, Biddeford, 15; Robert Hutchins, Biddeford, 15; Noah Hooper Jr., Saco, 13; Samuel T. Jordan, Saco, 21; Tristam Jordan, 3d, Saco, 15; Humphrey Jacobs, Saco, 18; John Kendrick, Jr., Saco, 20; Edwin Lapell, Biddeford, 12; Arthur Murch, Biddeford. 14; Acton P. Patterson, Saco, 21; Adolphus Preble, Saco, 18; Israel Pike, Jr., Saco, 12; James Rumery, Saco, 21; Joseph Scammon, 3d, Saco, 20; Andrew Scammon, Saco, 20; Mark Sawyer, Saco, 17; Wm. Smith, Biddeford, 17; James Snow, Saco, 16; Frederick Storer, Saco, 14; Henry Thatcher, Saco, 19; Richard C. Thornton, Saco, 15; Susanah Chadwick, Saco, 14; Harriet J. Granger, Saco, 14; Sally Hayes, Saco, 16; Eliza Gilpatrick, Saco, 15; Mary Hartley, Saco, 13; Elizabeth Hartley, Saco, 11; Mary C. King, Saco, 14; Dorcas Leland, Saco, 13; Sally Moody, Saco, 11; Eliza Patterson, Saco, 17; Sally P. Pike, Saco, 13; Mehitable Scammon, Saco, 22; Olive Sawyer, Saco, 21; Sophia Stone, Saco, 17; Eliza Sweet. Topsman, 15; Martha Waterhouse, Saco, 14;

In 1822, the name of the Academy was changed, by an act of the legislature, to Thornton Academy, in honor of Thomas G. Thornton, who gave it a liberal endowment. It remained standing until 1848 when it was burned to the ground, it being the supposed work of an incendiary. The year following the burning of the Academy the high school building which now stands on the eastern part of the park was erected. In 1827 the Unitarian church which still stands in the park near the School street entorance was built. Rev. J. T. G. Nichols, D. D. has been pastor of this church since 1842.

For many years that portion of the park near Common street was used by the militia for training, while the large open lot near Beach street was for many years used by the York County agricultural society for holding their fairs, and as a trotting park, circus and base ball ground.

Improvement of the Park.

By the will of the late Cornelius Sweetser, who died December 20th 1881 ten thousand dollars was bequeathed the city of Saco, to be used in laying out, furnishing and beautifying a public park, provided the city should raise a like amount for the same purpose within three years after his death. In May 1883 the provisions of the will relative to the park were accepted, and July of the present year Geo. F. Calef, Franklin Nourse and Benj. N. Goodale were appointed park commissioners, and the necessary money was raised by bonds ($10,000.) Following this, Winfield S. Dennett, civil engineer of Saco, made a survey of the park and drew a topographical plan of the same, from which the final plans were executed by Earnest W. Bowditch, a landscape gardener of Boston. last Thursday the contract for building the park was awarded to Thomas Shanahan Jr. of Portland.

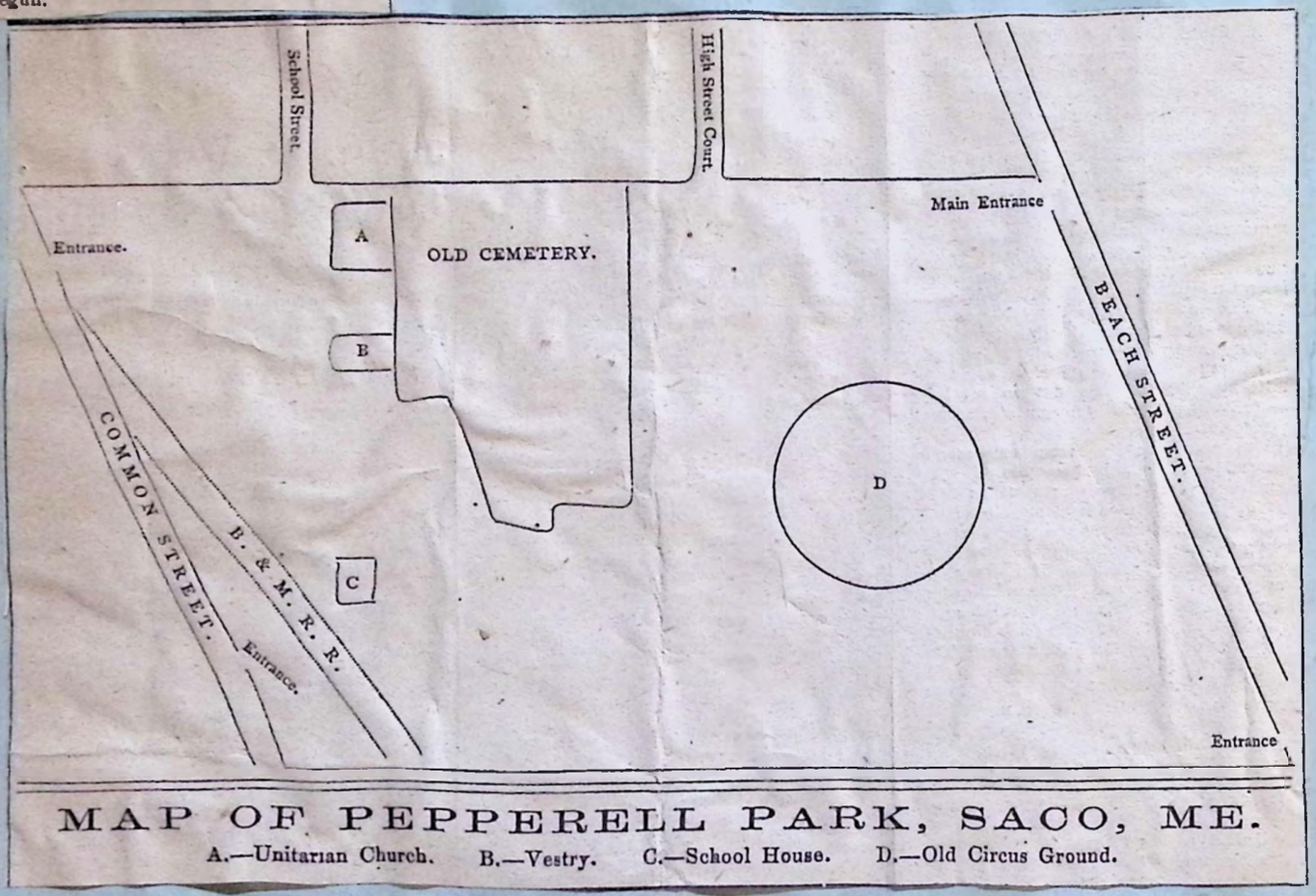
Friday morning, Oct. 24th, at twenty minutes before nine o'clock, the work began and the first ground was broken, two teams and about a dozen men working throughout the day. It is expected that a large force will be engaged upon the work by the middle of next week, Saco laborers to be engaged as far as possible in accordance with the contract. The laying out of paths, draining, grading and sodding will be completed this fall unless the weather prevents. Planting of the trees and shrubbery, building of the ponds and fountains (if any) will be attended to early next season. The old burying ground will not be molested at present. Should it be decided not to remove the bodies, of which hundreds are buried there, which can only be done by an act of the legislature, the old burial lot will be fenced in and suitably protected. There are to be five entrances to the park as shown in the outline plan above, viz: one each from School, High and Common streets and two from Beach street. An avenue twenty-five feet wide has been staked out, running from the School street entrance, passing the church and around the high school building and along the east side to the eastern entrance from Beach street. It has not, however, been fully decided whether this wide avenue is to be built or not.

J. T. Talbot, a civil engineer of Boston, will be upon the ground while the work is being done, whose duty it is to see that the letter of

the contract is strictly carried out, and to furnish working lines and grades.

It is the intention of the commissioners not to expend the entire amount of $20,000 at their disposal for building the park, but to have a reasonable sum left to be used in keeping the park in order after its completion.

Thus, after the lapse of many years, Saco is to have a public park, and the work of laying out and beautifying the old Pepperell grounds has begun.



MAP OF PEPPERELL PARK, SACO, ME.

A.—Unitarian Church. B.—Vestry. C.—School House. D.—Old Circus Ground.

LENGTH OF RIVER SPAN 1595-6 IN. TOTAL LENGTH OF BRIDGE 5989 Ft. WIDTH OF BRIDGE 85 Ft.
HEIGHT OF BRIDGE IN CENTER OF RIVER SPAN 135 Ft. HEIGHT OF TOWERS ABOVE HIGH WATER 278 Ft. DEPTH OF TOWER FOUNDATION BELOW HIGH WATER, NEW YORK 78 Ft. BROOKLYN 45 Ft.
COST OF BRIDGE ABOUT $15,000,000.
CONSTRUCTION COMMENCED JANUARY 1870. FINISHED 1883.
FAHYS COIN No 1
NEW YORK & BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

The report of the committee on finance

Thornton Academy.

mr Edditur—I have been looking several weeks for Vox to answer the plain questions i put in my fust letter to you and on thanksgiving i got the *Sentinel* and saw a long piece about the thornton Academic fund so i just laid it aside to read Sunday thinking He had took time and space enuf to make the whole thing plain, but sakes alive, what did the whole thing amount to, I thought I was agoing to get some information but it was truly Vox *et prætera nihil* the writer read the Boston *Globe* during the Butler fight for he aped that telephone style of theirs and asked himself questions that nobody else would, and then answered them, telling how bad he felt because somebody had steppedon his toes and wouldn't let him do all the mudslinging, digging at those truste s and working in hits that nobody could undersand but himself (that one at the post-office, if witty, hit wide of the mark) he evidently wants to make a martyer of hisself and run for mayor next march on that line, but that won't work, we want a smart active man for that place even if he does happen to go to the Unitarian meeting, wernt those seven mayors that trouble him so much elected by very large majoritys of the whole voters of Saco of all religious beliefs is that church going to turn a man out because the citizens like him Mr Sweetsir was a evangelical-man but he took three men out of that Secterian church to manage his property Vox aint one and thats what the matter i reckon, when Vox is asked if he wants a union between the city and those trustees or a new schoolhouse he invades an answer but says "*Ihave stirred them up any way*" but Mr Edditur all of this has nothing to do with the question, as near as i can find out the citizens by a large majority have come to the conclusion, that those trustees know their business and will make good use of the money in their hands—in a very few years the interest on it will come to enuff to build a $40,000 building and though i would like to see a union so as ot have it done at once i can see that we have one or two *Voxes* in our midst that would all ways keep up a howl unless they could get in to help handle the money so i think as we have a lot of children to eddicate, we had better let them alone and the city build their own schoolhouse and then every citizen as Vox knows has a right to grumble at the management of the city schools grumbling is the whole stock in trade of a certain class i would like Mr Edditur to see this question fairly discussed but they can get no infirmation from such dialogues as concocted by Vox and published in the *Sentinel* last week.

SUPERANNUATE.

ALMOST COMPLETED.

A Description of the New Water Works on the Hollis Road.

A Vast Enterprise Undertaken by Portland Capitalists, and a Credit to All Connected Therewith—Putting the Finishing Touches Upon the Reservoir, and Pushing the Remainder of the Work Vigorously.

Two and a half miles from the city, to the west of the Hollis road, and surrounded by stately pines, that nod their heads to every breeze that blows, stands a huge pile of masonry that frowns upon the visitor when chance or curiosity draws to that vicinity. It is the reservoir of the Biddeford and Saco water company. The work of clearing the land upon which it stands was begun by a force of twenty men, on the 19th of last May, and today the tremendous work has reached a state of virtual completion. Merely a narrow gap remains in its walls, which, by sundown, tomorrow, will have been closed in. Eight acres of land comprise the site of the reservoir, and this was purchased of Mrs. Mary C. Hooper, of this city. The reservoir stands in a natural amphitheatre, and is constructed of immense blocks of granite that were quarried close at hand. To facilitate the work, an iron railway was laid from the quarry to the reservoir, and around its walls on the interior, and the granite cubes were transported on flat cars, a hoisting engine being used in raising the stone from the bed of the quarry. The outside circumference of the reservoir is between eight and nine hundred feet, and the inside line of the coping measures eight hundred feet. It has an altitude of two hundred feet above the mean high water mark and its greatest depth is thirty five feet. The walls are thirteen feet wide at the base and in their construction it was necessary to blast downward into the solid ledge a distance of fifteen feet to obtain a water-tight foundation. Between thirty-five and thirty-six hundred yards of stone have been used on the reservoir, which was built of first class rubble masonry, and consumed three months of time. The outside wall was laid with a batter of one-half an inch to the foot, and the inside with five and a half inches to the foot. The Norton cement has been used exclusively by the company, and one out of every ten barrels of the thousands received has been subjected to a critical test. The method of testing is as follows: A batter is made of the cement and placed in an iron mould, where it is allowed to lie for a week or a month, until it becomes perfectly hard. Then the cube, which has an inch lineal measurement at its ends, is placed in a scale and the figurative point at which it breaks is noted. The natural test of this cement is ninety-five pounds to the square inch for cement that has remained in the mould one week, and one hundred and forty pounds for that which has been in the mould a month. All of the cement that has thus far been used, and which was furnished by L. C. Cummings, of Portland, has run far ahead of the above test. The bottom of the reservoir is of disintegrated rock, hard pan, that is hard to pick, hard to blow and hard to blast, so says the engineer of the works, E. B. Cummings, of Portland, to whose courtesy the reporter of the JOURNAL is indebted for the facts obtained.

Through the side of the wall facing the river, protrudes a twenty-inch pipe, by means of which the water is supplied to the reservoir, and into the south wall a twelve inch pipe has been introduced, through which the water may be discharged in case it becomes necessary to clean the reservoir. The river wall has been constructed to withstand a pressure of more than four hundred tons, and from its base to a point within twenty-one feet of the crest of the coping, there is a hip wall thirteen feet thick. The reservoir has a capacity of ten million gallons. A gate house of solid masonry has been erected outside of the south east wall, which is to be floored and roofed, and is supplied with a twenty inch gate to shut off the water between the reservoir and the pumping station.

The contract to build the reservoir was awarded to Thomas Shanahan of Portland, whose two sons, Thomas Jr., and Richard, have had charge of the work since its inception, William E. Pilsbury of this city, being employed to do the clerical work. During the progress of the work six engines representing fifty horse power, seven derricks, a steam stone crusher and a very large force of men have been constantly employed, in addition to between twenty four and thirty horse and ox teams. At the reservoir wooden buildings have been erected and utilized for offices, stone houses, tool houses, and blacksmith shops. The reservoir itself is a very substantial structure and has been thoroughly built with an expenditure of great care for every detail. It is certainly a credit to the city as well as the water company, and the thorough manner in which the work had been done is a reflection upon the ability of the Shanahans.

A drive is to be constructed around the reservoir from which a view of the interior may be obtained; and in this connection it may be stated that the earth and rocks taken from the excavations have been used in constructing an embankment twelve or thirteen feet deep without the walls on the side facing the west. In digging trenches through woods in which to lay the pipe solid ledge was encountered at every step, and great difficulty was encountered in reaching the required depth.

The company also owns a tract of land consisting of twenty acres, situated on the river bank, and four thousand feet east of the reservoir. The land was purchased of Hon. E. W. Staples, and his brother, Orrin H. Staples, of this city, and was a part of the Staples homestead farm. Upon this, at the present time, a large force of men are engaged in erecting a pumping station. The station will stand in close proximity to the river bank, and will be a handsome brick structure, with a single story above the surface of the ground, surmounted by a slated roof, with iron cresting and panel cornice. In this building will be located the engine house, which is to be furnished with a patent duplex engine capable of pumping three million gallons daily, and attached to which is to be a 75 foot chimney, a pumping well, filtering well, boiler room, to be supplied with two boilers, each of seventy-five horse power, and a coal shed. The building will be in the form of a very irregularly shaped letter T, the pumping well and filtering well being in the main part, with the engine house adjoining the former on one side, and the boiler room and coal shed on the other.

The following are the dimensions of the different rooms: Engine house, 34x40; pumping well, 20x12; filtering well, 60x12; boiler house, 34x34; coal shed, 34x48. Work upon the station was begun Aug. 15, and this morning there were forty men engaged in different capacities upon the construction. The building will be completed by the latter part of next month. In beginning, an excavation ninety-four feet long, seventeen wide and twenty-three deep was made, upon the bottom of which timbers were placed the entire width. Then planks were run the length of the walls on the timbers. From this the walls of masonry which are four feet thick at the base, are being raised. Two and a half feet above the foundation the filtering conduit will be erected and above this the filterer. The brick work will be continued to the extreme height of high water, and four hundred and fifty thousand brick will be used in the construction of the station.

As a protection to the men while working, and to prevent the earth from caving in, a system of sheet piling is used, and surround the excavations. Wooden planks seventeen feet long, are driven into the clay a distance of four feet below the base of the work, and braced by eight foot square timbers. In excavating a bed of solid clay is encountered a few feet below the surface of the ground, and its removal necessitates slow and laborious work. Fifteen men are employed in digging, and the clay, as fast as it is loosened, is thrown in huge junks into a carriage

and conveyed to the surface by means of a derrick propelled by a hoisting engine, and will be used in grading the land adjoining the station. A conduit is to be extended at once from the pumping station into the river, a distance of sixty-five feet, and while this is being constructed the water will be kept from the workmen by a coffer dam, sheet piling with truss and groove stock being employed. Between forty and fifty thousand feet of lumber will be consumed in building the dam. There is a partition wall between the well hole and filtering bed, which is also constructed of brick and supplied with gates. The water from the river, which, at a distance of fifty feet from shore has a depth of thirty feet, will be introduced into the station through the conduit and pass under the filter bed into the filter conduit There it will be forced upward through the filter and flow through the gates into the pumping well.

The system of filtering is the same as that employed in the Lewiston water works, and is said to be the most complete and satisfactory in its results of the many employed. From the station the water will be taken in twenty inch pipes and thrown to the reservoir, a distance of exactly 3,625 feet. Workmen are now engaged in laying the pipe through the fields between the station and reservoir, and the work is being prosecuted with rapidity.

Just west of the highway a trench has been dug and pipes will be laid connecting with the main pipe, by which the water will be conducted to the city. Contrary to the general supposition all the water that is forced from the station does not enter the reservoir, but merely the surplus from what enters the branch pipe above alluded to.

The pipe used by the company comes from Philadelphia, being furnished by R. D. Wood, and is of cast iron, each length weighing from twenty-three to twenty-four hundred pounds. Ephraim Dyer of Standish, who has had charge of laying all the pipes for the Portland water company for five years, is employed in a similar capacity by the Biddeford and Saco company. The joints of the pipe are of lead and fifty tons will be required to complete the work, which is being furnished by Holden & Herrick of Boston.

The wooden buildings which were included in the purchase of the twenty acres of land will be thoroughly repaired and used as a dwelling house for the engineer and manager of the works.

Water will be introduced into the city according to the terms of the contract entered into by the city and the water company, and although considerable delay has been caused by the non-arrival of pipe from Philadelphia, a large portion of the distance between the city and works has been trenched and the pipe has been laid. From the reservoir to the highway and thence to Elm street twenty inch pipe has been used. From Elm street a main pipe sixteen inches in diameter will conduct the water through Main street to City Square, and another main of the same diameter will be laid along Elm street to Saco, to carry the water to that city. From these, smaller pipes, from four to twelve inches in diameter will radiate. Nothing but cast iron pipes are to be used by the company, and before the first of November two thousand tons will have been used, and three miles of territory covered.

Since the 19th of May about two hundred men have been constantly employed by the company, and from thirty five to forty-five teams. Thirty-nine hundred barrels of cement have been consumed, and a vast amount of lumber, the latter being furnished for the most part by Biddeford and Saco parties. N. B. Osgood of this city, did the carpentry work on the gate house, and the bricks used in the construction of the pumping station are from the yard of Marston & Dorgin in Saco. The contract for the brick masonry was awarded to James Cunningham of Portland, and that for the carpenter work to C. A. Hanson. This morning seven teams were engaged in hauling brick to the pumping station, each team making three trips a day, and carrying a thousand bricks for a load.

Every portion of the work is done by contract, and although it has thus far been accomplished with the utmost rapidity possible, no part of it has been slighted in the least degree, and it will stand as a lasting monument to the enterprise of man. When completed it will be one of the finest systems of water works in the state, and will supply both cities with ample protection from fire, and a sufficiency of water for domestic purposes.

The Biddeford and Saco water company is composed of ten gentlemen of wealth and of splendid business attainments, all of whom, with the exception of the president, John P. Gilman of Haverhill Mass., are residents of Portland, and are prominently identified with the foremost enterprises of that city. The treasurer of the company is Hon. George P. Wescott of Portland, who was the leading spirit of the vast undertaking, and has devoted a good share of his time during the past few months to the supervision of the work. The main office of the company is located in Goodwin's block on Main street, and is in charge of Charles H. Parcher of this city.

The Injured Trees.

The Portland Advertiser contains the following communication in relation to the proper method of caring for the trees so lately injured by the storm:

Having been for fifty years an interested observer of tree life, and having had for more than half of those years the direct oversight and responsibility for hundreds of ornamental trees, I venture to offer a few remarks upon our present calamity.

A tree growing upon a dry knoll or in poor gravel may be killed by injuries which would not affect one growing in rich moist land. For example: If rich earth be filled in around a tree in moist land, the tree throws out additional roots and flourishes; but in dry land that treatment injures the tree, slowly but surely, year after year. Limbs sawn off a tree in rich moist land do no visible harm; such wounds in dry poor land weaken the tree, and gradually kill it.

In some parts of our city the trees were too closely planted. If in such places they have been badly broken by the ice storm, it will be well to take out part of them. Those that are left will throw out new shoots and, in most instances, will recover their beauty in two or three years. But, after four or five years, those which are in dry situations will begin to grow sickly, and their tops will die off, and the trees become more unsightly than ever. For this there is, however, a simple remedy, and my main object in these remarks is to testify, emphatically, to its efficacy. Wherever a limb is lost or bark removed, the bared wood, whether cut or not, must be covered with a waterproof (but innocent) coating. Paints and varnishes are not innocent, even if waterproof; oil-cloth, tin, clay, under canvas, &c., are not waterproof. First of all, let the wound be trimmed smooth by a hand saw; then, before the sap begins to run freely in the spring, apply with a brush, pretty hot, the following composition: *Common rosin, softened by stirring in one-sixth to one-fifth its weight in mutton tallow.* I can show a vigorous tree, thirty feet high, with a trunk eighteen inches through, which I treated with this composition when it had been reduced to a branchless stump four feet high and three inches through.

THOMAS HILL.

Bideford, England.

The following, copied from a letter of a former resident of Saco, will be found very interesting:

BIDEFORD, DEVONSHIRE, England, }
July 26. 1883. }

My Dear A—:

I feel as it I must write to you from this quaint old town of Bideford, from which your Biddeford was named, though the original was spelled with only one d, yet is pronounced the same. We are making a trip through Somerset and Devon, which contain the finest coast scenery in England, and are enjoying it greatly, as we go by carriage with post horses, and can start and stop as we please.

We left Halse House in Somerset last Saturday, where we had been staying for two weeks on a visit to a friend of my husband, who has a fine estate and lovely place there, and have been travelling for five days about twenty miles a day, from one place of interest to another, resting and seeing whatever is worth seeing as we go on. We take carriage, horses and driver from one place and they return. It is more expensive than railroad traveling, but far pleasanter, as we send our large trunks on by train to a given point, and take only small packages and bags.

Some of the hills are very steep, so that an extra horse is provided at the foot to draw a heavy carriage up.

Bideford reminds me of your town, as it lies about as far from the sea and on the banks of the river Torridge, which is not unlike the Saco below the fall.

If you can imagine a stone bridge of twenty-three arches, going from the Island wharf to the old ship yard, it would give you something of the effect of this place. As I sit at the window of the hotel I look upon the water rushing with much noise through the arches and down the river On this side of the bridge are many schooners lying at the wharf. Houses are built looking upon the river, with a narrow street between, and very steep streets run up the hill from it. On the opposite side of the river is a ship yard with a ship in the stocks, some houses and a railroad station, but both sides go by the name of Bideford.

When the tide goes out it leaves brown, sandy flats, like the Saco river, but when full a beautiful lake-like river, by far the largest I have seen in England. Five or six miles below is the Pool, where ships of 500 tons can lie. The early settlers named your Pool from this one. Few American travelers come to this region of England, as it is out of the way of any large towns, but to us who are not in a hurry it is pleasant to linger amid these queer villages and market towns of the olden time. * * *

We remained six weeks in London. * * One of the prettiest sights is the drive in Hyde Park between the hours of 5 and 7 P. M. The fine turnouts and liveries, the elegant dress of the ladies, and the prancing horses make a most exciting scene, while the horsemen and women on Rotten Row dash about in the gayest manner. * * * We went one evening to a grand fete in the Botanic Garden at Regent Park, from 9 to 11 P. M., when the place was most brilliantly illuminated with colored lamps, making fairy land of trees, bridges, green houses and walks. Some of the princes and princesses were present and attracted much attention. The ladies were all in evening dress, and promenaded under the brilliant lights to the music of four bands, stationed in different parts of the grounds.

But I should weary you by describing all the wonderful things we have seen and done since we left home. * * *

The report of the committee on finance, | with suitable furniture and apparatus;

SACO, MAINE.

What Cornelius Sweetser and Other Philanthropists Have Done for a Maine City.

Correspondence of The Boston Journal.

PORTLAND, Me., April 9. When Cornelius Sweetser of Saco died in 1881, he left that city a large amount of property in trust for educational and benevolent purposes. His legacies, added to the $35,000 previously left by Mrs. Olive L. Dyer for the foundation and support of a public library, and to the Thornton Academy fund (now amounting to $83,000), makes bright the future of the educational and benevolent interests of the city. Several of the more important of Mr. Sweetser's legacies were as follows: For a public park, provided the city will raise an equal amount, $10,000; lecture course, $10,000; Thornton Academy, $10,000; school library, $10,000; City Missionary, $5000; public library, $10,000; Old Ladies' Home, $5000; York Institute, $12,000; Laurel Hill Cemetery, $11,000. Other legacies amounting to $150,000, not immediately available, were left the city for an orphan asylum. Last year the city met the conditions of the park legacy, and the construction of a beautiful public park was begun upon historic ground. In 1752 Sir William Pepperell, Baronet, of Kittery, gave to Saco a tract of land containing several acres for school, church and cemetery purposes. When the Boston and Maine Railroad built its road through the city it passed along the side of the Pepperell grant, and so near the High School Building that the city decided its value for school purposes was destroyed. The sum of $3000 was paid the city by the railroad company for the injury done to the school property. The school, however, has never been discontinued but each term's work has been done amid the smoke and confusion of the frequent passing trains. The church still stands upon the border of the tract, and the ancient cemetery with its moldering headstones occupies quite a portion of the field. Interments have been made in the cemetery since 1752, but all traces of a large number of the graves have long since disappeared, and many of the residents cannot to-day point out the final resting place of their ancestors. The first person buried was the wife of Robert Gray, from whom a portion of the land was purchased. The old slate headstone, erected to her memory may still be seen near the northwest side of the ground bearing the following inscription:

Here lies ye body of
Mrs JANE GRAY,
Wife of Robert Gray,
Who died October ye 10th. 1752,
Aged 69 years.

This Pepperell tract was last year taken for park purposes, and work was begun upon it according to designs prepared by Ernest W. Bowditch of Boston. This year it will be completed. The work is done under the direction of three Park Commissioners appointed by the City Government. None of the bodies in the cemetery lot will be removed, but an inclosure will be placed around the lot to keep vandals away from the graves. The city has also purchased another lot of land opposite the Congregational Church for another small park, which it has been suggested should be called Eastman Park, in honor of Mr. Edward Eastman, who has greatly interested himself in the matter. The land was formerly occupied by the Old Exchange Coffee House, which was burned some years ago.

The most important question for the city to decide this year, probably, will be a location for Thornton Academy. The old Saco Academy, built in 1812, had its name changed to Thornton Academy in 1822 in honor of Thomas G. Thornton, who was greatly interested in the school, and at his death bequeathed to it $1000. The school buildings were burned in 1848 by an incendiary, it is supposed, and since then the academy fund has been in the hands of Trustees, who have so carefully handled it that it has increased from $15,663 86 in 1863 to a market value of $83,000 in 1885. For several years both the Trustees of the fund and the city have desired that some arrangements might be mutually agreed upon so that the scholars of the city could obtain the benefit of this fund. The Trustees have desired to have the city select a suitable site for a building and erect an edifice that should be an honor to the city, and leave the same to the Trustees of the Thornton fund, who would in turn employ suitable teachers and charge the city nothing for the education of scholars residing in the city. Doubts have often been raised as to the legality of such a proceeding on the part of the city, but an act was passed by the last legislature authorizing cities or towns to enter into such an arrangement, and the city and the Trustees will probably conclude some arrangements this season. The old High School Building, which now stands amid the dust and turmoil of railroad trains, could then be given up in the interest of an improved educational system.

The York Institute, which received $12,000, is a literary institution which is doing a good work in gathering together historical matter. The Sweetser lecture fund also provides a course of lectures each winter. This year the course included the following subjects: Grecian Art; Early Christian Art; Mediæval Art; Michael Angelo; Michael Angelo and Leonardo da Vinci; Raphael. The Dyer Library is also exerting its influence for good, with several thousand volumes of books upon its shelves, and a present fund of $31,000 in its treasury for the purchase of additional works.

Commercially, Saco is feeling the depressed condition of business. One of its manufacturing establishments, employing several hundred men at good wages, has suspended all work for the present, and another large corporation has been unable for a year or more to furnish steady employment to its operatives, and a reduction of wages has also been suffered. These changes have been seriously felt by the laboring people of the city. Better times, however are looked for, and when business revives, Saco will be one of the most prosperous cities in this State.

C. L. M.

Be it known that I, Abner Coburn of Skowhegan, county of Somerset and State of Maine, being of sound disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this, my last will and testament, as follows, viz.:

First—I give and bequeath to the Maine Insane Hospital at Augusta fifty thousand dollars—the same to be funded and the income only to be expended annually.

Second—I give and bequeath to the Maine General Hospital at Portland one hundred thousand dollars.

Third—I give and bequeath to the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts one hundred thousand dollars—the same to be funded and the income only expended annually.

Fourth—I give and bequeath to Colby University two hundred thousand dollars, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of which to be funded, and the income only to be expended annually.

Fifth—I give and bequeath to the American Baptist Home Mission Society two hundred thousand dollars, one half of which to be applied in aid of freedmen's schools (other than Wayland Seminary).

Sixth—I give and bequeath to the Wayland Seminary at Washington, D. C., in memory of my deceased sister, Fidelia C. Brooks, late missionary to Africa, and Mary A. Howe, late teacher in the seminary, fifty thousand dollars.

Seventh—I give and bequeath to the American Baptist Missionary Union for a Judson memorial fund one hundred thousand dollars.

Eighth—I give and bequeath to the Maine Baptist Convention, for missionary and religious work in the State, one hundred thousand dollars.

Ninth—I give and bequeath to the Waterville Classical Institute, in addition to what I have already donated, as much as will amount, in the whole, to one hundred thousand dollars, one-half of which to be funded, and the income only to be expended annually.

Tenth—I give and bequeath to Houlton Academy, to increase its endowment fund, five thousand dollars.

Eleventh—I give and bequeath to the Maine Industrial School for Girls, at Hallowell, five thousand dollars.

Twelfth—I give and bequeath to the Baptist Church and Society in Skowhegan, for a permanent fund, eighteen thousand dollars.

Thirteenth—I give and bequeath to Bloomfield Academy, to open the same free of tuition to the public, seven thousand dollars.

Fourteenth—I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Bloomfield Academy, to be appropriated at their discretion in founding a free public library in the town of Skowhegan, thirty thousand dollars.

Fifteenth—I give and bequeath to the town of Skowhegan, for the worthy and unfortunate poor and to save them from pauperism, to be funded, and one half of the income of the same to be expended by a ladies' aid society formed for that purpose, twenty thousand dollars.

Sixteenth—I give and devise to the town of Skowhegan all that part of the Russell lot that lies south of Water street, in said Skowhegan, for a public park, to have and to hold the same to the said town forever for that purpose.

Seventeenth—I give and bequeath to the Skowhegan Hall Association, in part to secure a liberal policy in respect to the use of the hall for objects of public interest, fifteen thousand dollars.

Eighteenth—I give and bequeath to Sarah B. Coburn five thousand dollars.

Nineteenth—I give and bequeath to Eleanor L. Turner five thousand dollars.

Twentieth—I give and bequeath to Helen S. Coburn five thousand dollars.

Twenty-first—I give and bequeath to George H. Ray three thousand dollars.

Twenty-second—I give and bequeath to Aaron Parker one thousand dollars.

Twenty-third—I give and bequeath to Payson Tucker, George H. Ray, Z. A. Smith, Charles F. Weston, Greenlef A. Wilbur, George N. Page and James B. Dascomb, one thousand dollars each, as a token of regard and friendly feeling toward them.

The residue of my estate, of whatever kind and wherever situate, I give and devise to my kindred, as follows, viz.: To the children of my deceased sister, Eliza C. Marston, the children of my deceased brother, Samuel W. Coburn, and the children of my deceased brother, Stephen Coburn, in equal parts; provided, that the share of Alonzo C. Marston shall be held in trust by him for his son, Abner Paul Marston, and that said Alonzo C. Marston shall have full power to sell, convey and reinvest for the benefit of the said son, during his minority, on giving bonds as testamentary trustee.

I will and direct that all the above legacies and bequests shall be paid within five years from the probate of this will, and that interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum shall be computed on said specified legacies and bequests, in two years from said probate, and that upon whatever payments are made previous to the said two years, a discount at the same rate shall be made.

I hereby authorize and empower my executors to operate upon, manage, sell and convey such portions of my estate as they may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this will.

And, lastly, I do constitute and appoint James B. Dascomb, Russell B. Shepherd, George N. Page, Charles Danforth and Levi W. Weston, executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made; and I further direct that the executors of this, my last will and testament, give their personal bond without sureties.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twelfth day of December, A. D. 1883. ABNER COBURN. [L. S.]

The Saco Contract.

The Terms of Agreement Between the City of Saco and the Water Company.

This memorandum of agreement made and entered into at Saco in the State of Maine, this third day of January A. D. 1884 by and between the city of Saco, a body corporate and politic established by law, by the Mayor of said city hereunto duly authorized by an order of the City Council, approved March 31st, 1884 and acting within the scope of said order, party of the first part, and the Biddeford and Saco Water Company, a corporation established and organized under the laws of the State of Maine, and having a place of business at said Biddeford, party of the second part.

Witnesseth—that for the consideration herein after mentioned, the party of the second part agrees with the party of the first part, that water from Saco river shall be introduced into said city of Saco by a sixteen (16) inch dydraulic main, within one year January 1st, 1884, and shall lay before October 1st, 1886, not less than the following quantities of pipe in addition to the sixteen inch main, viz: 2,000 feet of twelve (12) inch pipe, 8,000 feet of eight (8) inch pipe, 8,000 feet of six (6) inch pipe, and 5,000 feet of four (4) inch pipe, and that said party of the second part will furnish water for the extinguishment of fires for such number of post hydrants, not less than twenty (20) as said first party may locate at any time, on any street or place, where the company may locate and lay down its pipes, while the works are under construction, and until January 1st 1886, and order set with suitable gates, pipes and connections so as to connect said hydrants with the pipes of the company. All hydrants, gates, and pipes, required by said city, until Jan. 1st 1886, shall be furnished and work done at the sole expense of the party of the second part, provided, however, that after Jan. 1st 1886, the said city may at its own expense furnish hydrants, gates and pipes, and lay the same ready to be connected by said company with its pipes, and said company shall connect the same at the expense of said city.

Said first party agrees to pay to said second party for each and every hydrant set by said company or by said city, and maintained and kept in good repair by said company, the sum of fifty (50) dollars per annum, payable in advance, one half each, on the first day of July and January of each year until July 1, 1895, provided, however, that after July 1,

1, 1895, all hydrants shall become the property of said city, and shall be maintained and kept in repair at the expense of said city.

The said company shall furnish all hydrants owned by said company or by said city with water for the extinguishment of fires after Jan. 1, 1885, without charge being made to said city.

Said party of the second part also agrees to furnish to said party of second part, without charge being made therefor, water for three (3) drinking fountains for man and beast, the flow of water sufficient to supply said fountains, also five (5) cup fountains with self-closing cocks, to be used for persons only, all said fountains to be furnished, set, and connected with the pipes of said company at the expense of said city.

In consideration of the premises the party of the first part agrees to exempt the property of said corporation, necessary and used for the purposes of supplying water under its charter, and its capital stock from taxation for the item of thirty (30) years from October 1st, 1883, during the said thirty years the said company shall have the exclusive right to lay pipes in the streets of said city for supplying water for municipal, domestic, and manufacturing purposes, and to establish tariff rates therefor, and said company agrees to furnish said city with water during said time for the purposes above enumerated, but in case of accident or the extension of said works time is to be given for repairs and making said extensions. It is furthur mutually agreed that the water to be furnished as above specified shall be supplied and regulated by such reasonable rules and regulations as the company may establish for its management. The height of the top of the capstone of the reservoir, to be as near as practicable two hundred (200) feet above mean low tide. The hydrants to be set shall be the best quality post hydrant, and have two (2) small outlets for suction hose, to be located and set in a manner satisfactory to the committee on fire department and chief engineer of said city.

In the event of any dispute or disagreement, which may hereafter arise between the city of Saco and the said water company by reason of their agreement, or any other cause which may occur between the said water company and city, it shall be settled by reference to three (3) disinterested men, one to be selected by said city, one to be selected by said company, and the third to be selected by the two parties already named, and the decision, when made, shall be final and binding in both parties.

The party of the second part reserve the right to annul this contract, provided the said party of the second part cannot, with six (6) months from January 1st 1884, for a satisfactory compensation acquire, from the corporations claiming to own the water of said river for manufacturing purposes, the right to take and use the water of Saco river for the purposes named in the charter of said party of the second part.

In witness whereof we have hereunto interchangeably set our hands and seals this third day of January, A. D. 1884.

BIDDDFORD & SACO WATER COMPANY,
by J. Q. GILMAN, Pres., GEO. P. WESCOTT, Treas.

JOSEPH W. HOBSON, Mayor.

Countersigned,

H. H. BURBANK, City Solicitor.

THE EMERY REUNION.

The Emery Clan from Far and Near Assemble at Fraternity Hall—Reading of Family Genealogy—An Excellent Dinner and Speeches from Distinguished Members—The Best Reunion Yet.

In accordance with invitation, about 130 members of the Emery family arrived in this city yesterday forenoon for the purpose of holding their fourth annual reunion. The visitors strolled about the city during the early part of the day, taking in all the places of interest, and were highly pleased to see the old places in Newburyport. At 10 o'clock they entered Fraternity Hall, where the meeting was called to order by the president, Rev. Rufus Emery of Newburgh, N.Y. Rev. S. Hopkins Emery of Taunton then offered prayer, after which the secretary, Thomas J. Emery of Boston, read the records of the last meeting. A nominating committee of five was appointed by the chair to prepare a list of officers for the coming year, and the treasurer, Thomas J. Emery of Boston, then gave his report, showing that there was a little money still on hand. The following resolution was then read by the president:

Resolved, That the next reunion of the Emery family be held in 1885, at such date and place as the executive committee may designate.

The president hoped that all would make an effort to be present and get all those belonging to the family to attend the meeting.

The president then read a resolution asking that the genealogy committee have the family history ready for publication at that time. He stated that the committee had the material of three years labor, and only needed cement to put it together.

Both resolutions were adopted, and a collection was taken up to help towards defraying the expense of printing the notice of meeting, etc.

It was suggested that the genealogical committee publish a paper every two months, containing matter relating to the family history, inventories, wills, deeds, etc. The suggestion occasioned quite a discussion, some being in favor it, while others were of the opinion that it would be better to wait and publish the whole history after the meeting in 1885.

The president then delivered the address of welcome. He spoke of the first of the clan who came to this country, John and Anthony Emery, who landed in Boston, June 3d, 1635, and said that the motives which prompted their coming to this country were unknown, although it is supposed they came to seek a more free and congenial climate than the one in which they lived. Soon after landing in Boston they came to Newbury, by way of Ipswich, as the records of Newbury say that in 1677 Anthony was granted 4 acres of land and John one-half and acre. He spoke of their long and useful lives, and stated that Anthony must have removed to Dover about 1633, but John remained in Newbury and from these two towns the Emery family have since sprung. John Emery died in Newbury in 1683, and Anthony died somewhere between 1680 and 1700. The prominent characteristics of the two brothers were usefulness, courage, benevolence, conscientious sense of justice and practical integrity. He closed by saying "It is thought by many that family reunions have a tendency to foster family pride, but such is not the case with us at least. We wish to see from whence we spring, and to whom we are indebted for an existence."

A very appropriate poem, written for the occasion by Mrs. Dye of Ohio, formerly Miss Eva L. Emery, was read by the president. It showed that she had studied well the family history.

The members of the genealogical committee then made a report, showing much investigation. A vote of thanks was then tendered the committee on behalf of the members of the family.

It was voted to open a subscription list then and there for the purpose of defraying the expense of printing the family history.

At this point the members repaired to the lower hall, where an excellent dinner, prepared by the well-known caterer H. P. Currier, awaited them. After dinner the nominating committee made a report, as follows: President, Rev. Rufus Emery, Newburgh, N. Y.; secretary and treasurer, Thos. J. Emery of Boston; vice presidents, T. J. Emery of Boston; George A. Emery of Saco, Me.; Geo. H. Emery, Concord, N. H.; John C. Emery, Montpelier, Vt.; S. H. Emery, Concord, Mass.; Moulton Emery, Charleston, S. C.; Mathew G. Emery, Washington, D. C.; F. F. Emery, Prairie City, Ill.; Josiah Emery, Williamport, Pa.

Speeches were then made by Rev. Mr. Cooke, Newton; Ex-Attorney General L. A. Emery of Ellsworth, Me.; Rev. E. J. Emery of Swanzey, N. H.; Edwin Emery, New Bedford; Amos Emery of Orange, Mass.; G. B. Emery of Gorham, Me.; T. J. Emery of Boston.

The following is a list of those present so far as could be obtained:—

MASSACHUSETTS.

Mrs. D. A. Green and Mrs. O. H. Emery, Medford; Sarah E. Jackson, Beverly; Mrs. Louisa F. (Wing) Emery, New Bedford; Lena H. Emery, Brockton; Mabel A. Trask, Beverly; Mary S. (Emery) Cleaves, Boston; Amelia A. Emery, Reading; Ann W. Perkins, College Hill; William H. Emery, Newton; George F. Emery, Boston; Mrs. Francis G. B. Emery, Boston; John Emery, Brockton; Sarah Anna Emery, Newbury Farms; Sarah Ayer, Haverhill; J. J. Emery, East Weymouth; Mrs. L. Emery Trask, Beverly; D. George Emery and Mrs. I. George Emery, Boston; Edwin Emery, New Bedford; Chas. E. Emery, Woburn; S. H. Emery jr., Concord; Mrs. Mary E. Spinney, Ipswich; Mrs. Ada J. Lloyd, Lynn; S. Trevatt Emery, Beverly; Mrs. Nancy E. White, Beverly; Mrs Mary Wolcott Emery Cowdry, Stoneham; Lelia J. Currier, Haverhill; Daniel A. Emery, Reading; Herbert C. Emery and Mary G. Emery, Boston; Elmira L Nute, Lowell; Constance Emery, Concord; Mrs. Mary L. (Emery) Cook, Newton Center; George D. Emery, Boston; Betsy A. Martin, Lowell; Maria M. Emery, Lowell; Henry Emery, Lowell; Minnie H. Emery, Woburn; Hannah M. Carr, B. and Warren Ordway, Bradford; Georgianna Emery, F. J. Emery, West Newbury; Alpheus Currier, Haverhill; George W. Emery and wife, Frank Emery, Marshfield; Alice A. Emery, East Boston; John S. Emery, Boston; A. E. Emery, Orange; Mrs. Catherine (Emery) Coffin, Mrs. Lydia (Emery) Durgin and Calvin Currier, West Newbury; Mrs. Mary G. (Emery) Cleaves, Mrs. Emery Cleaves, Emery Cleaves, Rebecca Hill Emery, and Albion G. Emery, Boston; Henrietta E. Durrill, East Somerville; J. Sumner Emery, Methuen; James Emery, Boston; F. F. Emery, Fitchburg; Helen C. Owen, Everett; Amelia A. Emery, East Boston; Samuel D. Emery and John S. Emery, Turner's Falls; Rev. Hopkins Emery, Taunton; Thomas J. Emery, Boston; M. D. Emery, East Boston; Georgianna Emery, Dr. S. E. Emery, Miss Mary E. Emery, Mrs. Mary H. Emery, Newburyport.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Hannah A. Stevens, Portsmouth; Mrs. D. C. Hooke, Fremont; Mary S. Burgin, Concord; Lucy Tibbetts, Great Falls; Mrs. G. H. Emery, Concord; Hannah Young and E. A. Tibbetts, Great Falls; Abbie T. Emery and Warren W. Emery, Rindge; Charles W. Emery, Canterbury; George H. Emery, Stratham.

MAINE.

George A. Emery, Saco; Sarah A. Thompson, Topsham; Mrs H. P. Thompson, Topsham; T. F Emery, Bedford; Mary Emery, South Berwick; M. P. Emery, Portland; Lucilius A. Emery, Ellsworth; George B. and Miss E. B. Emery, Gorham; Mary F. Lawrence, Wells; Mrs. B. S. Emery, South Berwick.

OTHER STATES.

Rev. Dr. Dishon, Meriden, Conn.; John E. Emery, Montpelier, Vt.; Mrs. J. W. Emery, Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. Rufus Emery, Newburg, N. Y.; F. F. Emery, Prairie City, Ill.; Annie Hayward Emery and Moulton Emery, Charlestown, S. C.; Edward Cook, Orangeburg, S. C.

Among the visitors was Hon. George W. Emery of Marshfield, Mass., formerly Governor of Utah. The reunion was the best one that has yet been held by the family.

The report of the committee on finance, to which was referred the matter of salaries of city officers, was read and accepted.

Ordered, That the salaries of the city officers for the current year be as follows:

City Clerk,	$550
Auditor,	150
Solicitor,	50
City Physician,	40
Supervisor of schools,	250
Health Committee,	150
Chief Engineer Fire Dept.,	50
Asst. Engineers, each,	75
City Marshal,	100
1st Overseer Poor,	125
2d " "	20
3d " "	5
Commis'r, Dist. 4,	700
Clerk Common Council,	40

Commissioner, Dists. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6—$1.50 per day when actually employed.

Assessors $2 per day when actually employed.

Drivers city teams $2 per day.

Night Watch $2 per night.

Day Police $1.75 per day.

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Amended by substituting the figures $500 in place of $700 on the salary of Street Commissioner in dist. No. 4. Read and refused to concur.

Ordered, that hereafter there be a uniform rate for side drains entering sewers, of forty cents per foot for front lots and twenty cents for rear lots.

The city clerk was directed to prepare the proper blanks to be signed by the mayor and city clerk, for granting permits to drain into the sewer on payment of the required amount to the city clerk, a true record of all permits so granted being kept in a book to be used for that purpose only.

John P. Moulton was appointed a special police officer.

The vouchers on the Eastman park were presented by J. G. Deering. It is claimed that $179 78 remains to be paid by the city to balance its account. The bills were referred to the committee on finance.

An order was passed that this county be granted the privilege of using the Saco jail for the confinement of prisoners, on such terms as may be agreed upon between the county commissioners and the committee on public property.

An order was passed that the chief engineer of the fire department be authorized and directed in behalf of the city to direct the Biddeford & Saco Water Company to place, at suitable points as he may designate, such additional number of hydrants as he may deem necessary for the best interests of the city.

The following report of the committee of conference between the city council and trustees of Thornton Academy was read, accepted and adopted:

'Your committee chosen to confer with a committee of the trustees of the Thornton Academy upon the matter of making a contract with said trustees for the tuition of scholars, held a conference with said committee on the 15th day of May, 1885, and the terms and conditions of a contract between the city and academy were considered. It was the unanimous opinion of both committees that it was desirable to make a contract between the city and academy substantially as follows: That the city purchase either the so-called Charles Hill lot and land lying between said Hill lot and Fairfield street, or the Paul C. Sands lot, and erect thereon school buildings, with a capacity to accommodate two hundred pupils, in accordance with plans and specifications to be mutually adopted, provide the same with suitable furniture and apparatus; lay out, grade and fence the lot, and lease the same to the trustees for the term of twenty-five years. That the trustees organize and maintain a school in said buildings at least thirty-five weeks per year, of a grade as high as the present High School in Saco, for twenty-five years; admit to the privileges of said school in its English and Classical courses all the children in Saco who may be legally entitled to the benefits of public schools in Saco, under a standard of scholarship to be agreed upon by the Supervisor of schools of Saco and the Trustees; said standard to be changed only by agreement of the school committee or Supervisor of schools of Saco and the Trustees. The trustees at their own expense, to care for the grounds and buildings, and to keep the buildings in repair, except in the case of damage by fire or lightning. In case of loss by fire, the trustees to be relieved from their obligations under this contract till the city shall repair or erect other buildings. The city at its own expense, to keep the buildings insured. The tuition of one hundred pupils, or less, to be paid for by said city, by said lease of said buildings and grounds. The city to pay at the rate of fifteen dollars per year for each pupil in excess on one hundred.

Signed by the committee of conference.

SAMUEL L. LORD,
SUMNER C. PARCHER,
FRANK W. NUTTER,
EDMUND GARLAND,
JOSEHH A. HALL.

Ordered, That the hydrants situated on Storer street and at the junction of Elm and Pleasant streets be reset on a line with the curbing.

The petition of R. P. Tapley and others asking for a sewer on Green street, recommended that a 12 in. pipe or brick sewer be laid from Prospect street, down Green street, across Elm street, and thence into Bradbury brook, the same to be done under supervision of the commissioner of streets, District No. 4. Read and accepted and an order to that effect was passed.

The following communication from John C. Bradbury, Clerk of Board of Trustees of Thornton Academy, was read and accepted.

SACO, May 30, 1885.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Thornton Academy held at the office of Fairfield and Emery, May 27th, 1885. After the report of the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the city was read and accepted, it was

Voted, that the Trustees are ready to contract with the city of Saco upon the terms and conditions as reported and agreed upon by the committee of conference of the city and Trustees.

Voted, that the clerk give to the chairman of the committee of conference on the part of the city a copy of the above votes.

The two boards then went into a joint convention for the purpose of considering the question of the city contracting with the trustees of Thornton Academy for the tuition of scholars. After discussion it was nearly unanimously voted to grant such authority.

It was ordered that each board of the city council appoint one of its members who together with Ira H. Foss of the board of the trustees of Thornton Academy, shall constitute a committee to obtain plans and specifications for school buildings in conforming with provisions referred to in the report of the committee appointed to confer with a committee of said trustees in relation to the tuition of scholars. It was further ordered that the committee as above constituted shall be allowed the expense of travel and all other necessary expenses incident to the procurement of said plan and specifications. Alderman Albion K. P. Chellis and Councilman Joseph A. Hall were elected as said committee.

The board of health submitted the following sections to be added to the city Ordinances:

SECTION 1. No swine shall be kept within one hundred feet of any street, square, lane, alley or dwelling house, nor any neat animal within fifty feet of any dwelling house. This provision shall apply only to that part of the city within half a mile of City Hall.

Sec. 11. Whoever shall violate the provision of the foregoing section, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars for every week of such violation.

Sec. 111. The health committee is hereby authorized to issue licenses for keeping swine or neat animals within the limits above specified under such restrictions, as to manner and place as they may deem necessary, and such licenses shall be without cost to the persons to whom they may be granted.

The above was read and referred to committee on ordinances.

It was ordered that the committee appointed to procure plans and specifications for school buildings, be authorized and directed in behalf of the city to ascertain the lowest cash prices of the following parcels of real estate and also to obtain the refusal of the same at the prices named for five weeks:

The Paul C. Sands lot, with the buildings thereon; the so called Charles Hill lot with the buildings thereon; and the lot lying between said Hill lot and Fairfield street.

SACO CITY MEETING.

A LONG SESSION AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF BUSINESS.

Interesting Matters Relating to the Thornton Academy.

The regular monthly meeting of the Saco City Council occurred last evening at their rooms in city building, Alderman Abram Lord absent. The meeting was called to order shortly before eight o'clock, and after the reading of the report of the last meeting, the following business was transacted:

Ordered, That the city treasurer be authorized to procure a temporary loan of ten thousand dollars to meet the ordinary expenses of the city. Read and passed in concurrence.

The committee on ordinances to which was referred the matter of an ordinance relating to swine and neat animals, report action inexpedient. Read and accepted.

Ordered, That joint rule No. 15 of the city council be, and hereby is, suspended for the purpose of passing an ordinance relating to pigs and neat stock. Read and passed in concurrence.

Section 1. No swine shall be kept

thin one hundred feet of any street, square, lane, alley or dwelling house; nor any neat animal within fifty feet of any dwelling house. This provision shall apply only to that part of the city within half a mile of the city hall.

Sec. 2. Whoever shall violate the provision of the foregoing section shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars for every week of such violation.

Sec. 3. The health committee is hereby authorized to issue licenses for keeping swine or neat animals within the limits above specified, under such restrictions, as to manner and place as they may deem necessary, and such licenses shall be without cost to the persons to whom they may be granted. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That a brick sewer be constructed on Cross street, connecting with the Elm street sewer. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That Alderman Sumner C. Parcher and Councilman Frank W. Nutter be authorized and directed to locate, procure, set and connect with the pipes of the Biddeford and Saco Water Company, the five cup fountains authorized by the contract with said company. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That Alderman Samuel L. Lord and the street commissioner of highway District No. 4, be authorized to locate, procure, set and connect with the pipes of the Biddeford and Saco Water Company, the three drinking fountains for man and beast, authorized by the contract with said Company. Read and passed in concurrence.

A petition was presented by John Deering and others requesting that Eastman Park be reserved for a monument to be erected to the memory of the men of Saco who served in the army or navy of the United States in the war of the Rebellion, and that the city aid in the erection of the monument. Read and referred to committee on public property.

A joint convention was then held to listen to the report of the committee appointed to obtain plans and specifications for school buildings.

The chairman of the committee Hon. Ira H. Foss then read his report in which he stated that they had visited the Coburn Classical Institute at Waterville and other schools at Rochester, N. H., and at Kingston, N. H., in each of which places they found excellent buildings, but too large for the city of Saco. With such information as they could gather from these visits, coupled with their own ideas of the wants of the city, they called upon John C. Stevens, architect of Portland. The plans of Mr. Stevens were then shown, and his letter which accompanied the plan was read, and is as follows:

July 2, 1885.

IRA H. FOSS, ESQ.,

Dear Sir: I send you today the sketches for proposed school building. I have placed the school rooms proper on the lower floor with clothes rooms and class rooms as you will see. I have made the clothes rooms large enough to accommodate all the scholars with ample hanging room, and provided for thorough ventilation. Two of the schoolrooms may be thrown together by a sliding partition, as you will see by the plans. At the back end I have provided a teacher's room with a separate entrance from outside. The staircase will be ample, well lighted and comfortable, and the effect of the whole entrance hall will be good. On the second floor I have provided some good class rooms, so arranged as to give good accommodations for chemical experiments, etc., with special ventilating arrangements for carrying off all noxious gases, the experiments being performed behind a glass partition if necessary. I have provided a general assembly hall to be finished up into the roof, and it would make a very pretty hall to use as a chapel, or for general public exercises. There would be a gallery at the end, to be reached from the third floor.

In the front on third floor I have provided rooms to be fitted up for library purposes, which can be arranged to accommodate as many books as you would like. The exterior I treated in a broad, simple style, with just enough of ornamentation to give character to the building, material to be good face bricks, red mortar, red freestone, with granite underpinning. The front porch on Main street is to be built mostly of stone, with terra cotta panel in gable, as shown; inside to be furnished in hard wood and wall and ceilings to be painted. The plumbing and sanitary arrangements would be complete, and the building heated by steam with ample provision for good ventilation. I have had some of our most reliable builders make an approximate estimate of cost, and I think there is no question but that $30,000 to $33,000 would build the buildings complete. $35,000 would undoubtedly provide the whole thing, including seating. I hope the design will prove satisfactory, and I really think that the building if erected will be undoubtedly the best school building (architecturyally at an rate) in the State.

Yours very respectfully,
JOHN CALVIN STEVENS.

In continuation of the report, the committee gave the price of the two lots of land in which it was proposed to erect the buildings. For the entire lot of P. C. Sands $10,000 including all the buildings thereon. For so much of the said Sand's lot as lays to the south of his driveway, he retaining the buildings and the land, the width of said driveway to the rear of his lot $6,000. Mrs. Hill's lot complete with all the buildings thereon, $6.000.

The prices of the other lots reported were as follows: J. G. Weymouth's eight lots on Fairfield street $1.000. Misses Jordan's two lots on Fairfield street $525.

Ordered, that the plans and specifications for school buildings, this day submitted, be accepted. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, that Joint Rule No. 13 of the city council be suspended for the purpose of purchasing a lot for school buildings and provide for the construction of the same. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, that the city treasurer be authorized to purchase, at once, for the sum of six thousand (6000) dollars, the Paul C. Sands' lot, for the purpose of erecting school buildings thereon. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, that a committee consisting of Alderman Samuel L. Lord, Councilmen Frank W. Nutter and Ira H. Foss, Esq., be authorized to drain, grade and fence the Sands lot, and construct thereon school buildings, in accordance with plans. Said committee is hereby given full power, in behalf of the city, to contract for labor and materials, and to make all other outlays in the construction of said building and furnishing the same. Said committee shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for their services. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, that the City Treasurer be directed to hire upon the credit of the city, the sum of forty-one thousand (41,000) dollars which sum shall be expended in part or the whole, if the same shall be found necessary, in the purchase of the Sands lot, grading, draining and fencing the same, and the construction of the school buildings thereon. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, that the City Solicitor be authorized to meet a committee on the part of the trustees of the Thornton Academy, for the purpose of formulating a contract between the city and said trustees for the tuition of scholars, in conformity with the terms and conditions embraced in the report of the conference committee.

Death of Thomas Quinby.

THOMAS QUINBY died at his home in Stroudwater (Deering) at 10 o'clock yesterday forenoon, from heart disease, with which he had been afflicted for some time. He was 71 years, 6 months and 5 days old. Mr. Quinby was born in Westbrook, Cumberland county, Maine, December 15, 1813. He received his education in the common school and at Parsonsfield Academy, and for some four terms was a teacher. He learned civil engineering with the well-known James Hall, of Portland; was with that gentleman in reconnoitering the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad route, now the Grand Trunk; in surveying for a canal from Moosehead Lake to the mouth of Sebasticook river; and in the preliminary survey of the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad, about 1840. He made a survey of Portland in 1840, for the purpose of making a plan of the city, and was engaged for some time near Temiscouata Lake for a lumbering party.

In April, 1841, he came to Biddeford as engineer, book-keeper, and paymaster of the Saco Water Power Company, which was incorporated in 1837, and in 1852 was elected agent of the company. He filled these several places until December, 1869, and in 1870 went to Portland to take charge of the Portland and Rochester Railroad as superintendent, and settled the land damages on that road from Alfred to Rochester.

After performing the duties of this office for two years, he returned to Biddeford and resumed his former position in connection with the Saco Water Power company, which he retained up to the first of March of the present

year, when, on account of failing health, he resigned. During his long connection with this corporation he possessed the most entire and explicit confidence of all its members.

Mr. Quinby was elected county commissioner in 1866, which position he resigned a short time prior to his superintendency of the Portland, and Rochester Railroad, in 1870. He was a director of the Biddeford Bank from its organization until 1870.

For many years he was prominently connected with various local institutions; and was a member of Dunlap Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and of the York Royal Arch Chapter.

Mr. Quinby leaves a wife and three sons, Henry B., superintendent of the Cole Manufacturing company of Lake Village, N. H., Fred, a government official at the Ponca Agency, Indian Territory, and Thomas F., professor in a medical college at Minneapolis, Minn.

The funeral services will be held at his late residence, at two o'clock, Saturday afternoon, June 20.

A SIXTY-MINUTE SESSION.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF SACO'S SOLONS.

Grant Resolutions---Matters Pertaining to Thornton Academy.

The regular monthly meeting of Saco city council occurred last evening. Alderman Hight absent. After the reading of record of the clerk, the Mayor made a few introductory remarks relative to the death of General Grant, after which the following resolutions were submitted by Alderman Frank R. Milliken.

WHEREAS, He is dead! The unwavering patriot, the illustrious warrior, the successful defender of the Union and twice its President, General Ulysses S. Grant—who won the plaudits of the World by his achievements in arms and endeared himself to his countrymen by the modesty with which he bore his honors and the magnanimity with which he used his victories,

Resolved, That we cherish his memory with gratitude for the immeasurable services which he rendered to the nation when domestic war threatened its destruction, and shall teach our children that the Republic made possible by Washington was made permanent by Grant.

Resolved, That as a token of sorrow which pervades this community over the national bereavement, the Mayor be requested to cause suitable emblems of mourning to be placed upon the city building, and that our fellow-citizens are hereby invited to suspend their customary avocations, as far as practicable, on the day of his burial, and to display symbols of grief at their places of business.

Resolved, That we feel the warmest sympathy with his afflicted family, and fervently invoke in their behalf, the aid of the Great Commander, who alone can give them consolation.

Resolved, That the City Clerk be directed to enter these resolutions upon the city records.

Previous to the resolutions the following communication was read by the Mayor:

To the Mayor and City Council of Saco:

The undersigned trustees under the will of Cornelius Sweetser, will pay to the city of Saco the sum of five thousand dollars, upon its acceptance by the city for the purposes named in item 27 of said will.

JOHN C. BRADBURY,
EDWARD P. BURNHAM.

After the reading of the resolutions, the following order was submitted by Alderman Lord:

WHEREAS, Death has removed from earth the illustrious soldier and beloved commander, General U. S. Grant, whose death the whole Nation mourns, and whereas, it is deemed fitting and proper that Saco should take public notice of this sad event, it is hereby ordered, that a committee consisting of the Mayor and two Aldermen, and as many members as the common council may join, be appointed to meet a committee from Fred S. Gurney Post, No. 36, G. A. R., for the purpose of arranging for appropriate services to be held on the day of his funeral. The Mayor is also instructed to request a suspension of business during the funeral hours.

Read and passed in concurrence.

Councilmen Garland, Freeman and Nutter were appointed by the common council to join the Mayor and two aldermen as a committee same as ordered.

The bond of Joseph L. Milliken was read and accepted.

Ordered, That all persons who pay State, county and city taxes for the year 1885 on or before Oct. 10th, 1885, be allowed a discount of six per cent. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That the bequests of $5000 under item 27 of the will of the late Cornelius Sweetser be accepted by the city, and that the condition of the will relating to the above bequest be complied with. Read and passed in concurrence.

The following is item 27 of the will:

I direct my said trustees to pay over to the said city of Saco the sum of five thousand dollars, to be called the Sweetser School Fund, in trust as follows:

1st. To be safely invested.

2nd. The yearly income to be expended under the direction of the school supervisor or committee as may in his or their discretion be for the best interests of the public schools of school district number one in Saco.

A petition signed by R. Jordan and others was read by Alderman Lord, asking for the construction of a stone walk across Storer street at a point from the side walk near the end of the piazza of the Saco River House, on the northerly side of said Storer street, thence at right angles to said sidewalk, across said street to the sidewalk opposite and in front of the double house known as the Adams or Garland House. Read and referred to committee on streets.

The committee appointed to confer upon the matter of salary for the street commissioner of Dist. No. 4 reported that the salary for commissioner and horse should be seven hundred dollars for the present year. Read and accepted in concurrence.

The following communication was read:

SACO, July 10, 1885,

At a meeting of the trustees of Thornton Academy held July 9, '85, it was voted to accept the plans for a school building, adopted by the city, provided the specification as to sanitary matters connected with the building be approved by the State Board of Health.

JOHN C. BRADBURY,
Clerk of the Board of Trustees.

The following letter from the State Board of Health was then read:

MR. I. H. FOSS,

Dear Sir:—This forenoon Dr. Webster and I carefully looked over the plans which were brought to us by Mr. Stevens, the architect. In the general arrangements of the ground floor plan we thought commendable. Some little changes we suggested which Mr. Stevens seemed very willing to accept. In the larger school room there might be some difficulty in sufficiently lighting the one or two rows of desks next the outer wall. To obviate this, we advised him to put another window in the rear of the scholars and two others at the side, and to run all the windows up as near the ceiling as possible. The two smaller rooms can easily be lighted from one side. The specifications for the warming and ventilation Mr. Stevens has not ready, but will send them to us when prepared. The placing of the water closets in the basement will be a great convenience, and if you have an abundant and sure water supply and a sewerage system to connect with or an available outfall for drain-pipe it can be made inoffensive and safe. Without these conditions this arrangement would not be safe. I write you this before hearing from Dr. Gerrish of Portland, who has examined the plans. He may have some suggestions to make other than these. Dr. Gerrish suggested that it might be well for a small committee of the board (say three) to visit Saco and examine the proposed site for the building. If you should wish this we would gladly give our time and would willingly pay our own expenses if the appropriation which is at our disposal were not so meagre. If your board of trustees should at any time wish us to come, it would be better for you to ask Dr. Gerrish to appoint the committee, including himself as chairman.

Yours truly,
A. T. YOUNG Sec.

Ordered, That the City Solicitor be, and hereby is, authorized and directed in behalf of the city, to petition either of the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court to issue a writ of mandamus, compelling the mayor to affix his official signature to all bonds, notes and orders necessary to carry into execution the orders passed at a regular meeting of the city council held July 6th, 1885, relating to the purchase of the Sands lot, constructing school buildings thereon and furnishing the same. All expenses incurred by the city in said proceeding shall be charged to the appropriation for contingent expenses. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That the salary of the Street

Commissioner in highway district, No. 4, be $700 per annum, said salary to include the services of himself and horse. Read and passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That when the two Boards adjourn it be to meet on Monday evening, Aug. 10, at 7.30 o'clock. Read and passed in concurrence.

The meeting was adjourned at half past eight.

RIDE TO THE POOL.

A JOURNEY UNDERTAKEN BY GOV. FAIRFIELD IN 1847.

The Colonel's Vest Pockets—The Covered Bridge—A Curious Adventure.

Richard Cutts and House—Mrs. Madison—Right Lines and Right Angles of Manufacturies—Insanity with a Method.

LETTER I.

No class of writings affords more pleasure than "Travels and Voyages." Intelligently and agreeably written, they amuse and instruct, without fatiguing the mind. And, suiting a greater variety of tastes than any other, by their copious and various contents, it is not strange that they excel all others in popularity with the general reader. Indulging a short time since in one of our delicious day dreams, the idea struck us, almost with the force of inspiration, that even our name, humble as it was, might be inscribed tolerably high on the temple of fame, if we would make the effort to do what others had done, viz.: *travel* and *write the history thereof*. This impulse could not be resisted—so, the only question to be settled was, as to what portion of the globe should have the honor of seeing us "take notes," and of being immortalized by our pen. And here, we confess ourselves to have been sorely puzzled. On a survey of the whole habitable portion of the globe not a patch as big as a leather apron could be found, that was not covered and crossed in every direction by well defined and well trodden paths. The scholar, the artist, the geologist, the mineralogist, the antiquarian, the botanist, and even the bugologist had ransacked the whole arcana of creation, and exhibited specimens of everything worth exhibiting to a gaping and gullible world. East, west, north, south—everywhere, and to every extent, we seemed to have been forestalled. Almost upon the point of yielding in despair, we were most happily relieved by one at our elbow having a conjugal right to advise us, who with one of those looks which you have no right to interpret into anything particular, and yet which might be made to mean any thing in general, according to one's fancy, said. "Why don't you go to the Pool, my dear, and then you can return the same day, you know." Mountains and mole hills! Think of that! Was there ever a finer specimen of pathos in prose? What a descent! From the tour of Europe—the visiting of Rome—the Holy Land—tracing the sources of the Nile—exploring the interior of Africa—peeping into the craters of a dozen volcanoes—putting our [illegible] upon the north pole, &c., &c., down to *a ride to the Pool!* The idea was capital—decidedly rich. It was *per se*, as John Tyler would say, *full* of fun. We seized it with avidity, and settled the whole thing in our own mind in a moment. Next to doing a great thing, you know, is the doing a little thing in a great way. Preparations were, of course, immediately instituted, and one morning, just after the sun had emerged from his morning bath in the ocean, and had begun to scatter his shining pearls upon "Old Orchard Beach," we were off with old switch tail and the buggy at the rate of three miles an hour.

By the way, Hanscom, did you ever see our apostrophe to Old Orchard Beach? Never did, hey? Ah, then you have not seen one of the richest things of the season. Here it is:

"Old Orchard Beach"—"Old Orchard Beach,"
Can any one forget
Thy solid floor, and lengthened reach,
Thy sands of white and jet

The gentle hum of thy curling wave,
Its splash upon the shore,
Just loud enough to give young love
A voice, less bold before.

Full many a match, Oh! matchless beach,
Can date its birth to thee;
Thou art the very field of love—
Love's border of the sea."

Pushing on with the speed before named, we found that we had just headway enough, as the sailors say, to carry us by the almost resistless eddies caused by the numerous confectionaries about "the Island bridge," and, indeed, "all along shore." These places are kept so neatly—by such gentlemanly, clever fellows, and are so beautifully and temptingly decorated with the sweet and luscious things which the force of art and nature combined can create, that one who can walk by them without feeling some lubrication of the organ of speech, by lymph gently distilling from a set of glands whose crack-jaw name we have forgotten, or in other words, without his "mouth watering," must possess an inordinate share of the acidity of human nature, and could, no donbt, by one of his happiest grimaces, give an additional stimulus and flavor to even *peppersauce* itself.

Passing these, we come to the white and yellow house formerly owned and occupied by the late Richard Cutts, once the most elegant house in town, but now, surrounded and thrown back, as it is, by splendid new brick blocks with iron fronts, it looks like some old faded belle who is endeavoring to compensate for the loss of her lovers by flaunting a portion of the finery that appropriately belonged to the hey day of her youth and beauty. Mr. Cutts represented this district in Congress for many years, embracing the period of the declaration of war against Great Britain, which he had the moral courage and patriotism to participate in, though well knowing, largely interested in commerce as he was, that it would be utterly ruinous to his fortunes. —Mr. Cutts was subsequently, and for many years, second Comptroller of the Treasury, an office which he filled with ability and fidelity. At the time of his death, which occurred some two or three years ago, John Quincy Adams wrote a beautiful tribute to his memory, which was published in the Washington papers. Mr. Cutts married Anna Paine, sister of Mrs. Madison. The latter, we understand, is still residing at Washington, and is the centre of nearly as much attraction as "the White House" itself. All foreigners and gentlemen of distinction from all parts of our own country, visiting Washington, make it one of their first pleasures to pay their respects to Mrs. Madison. Although far advanced in life, it is said, she retains much of the freshness and beauty of her earlier years, and all of the dignity and even majesty of her appearance and deportment. She still wears the turban and much of the costume of the olden time, which is in admirable keeping with her courtly manners.

You will perceive that our *excursion* is becoming somewhat of a *discursion*. "Well, vot of it"—"variety is the spice of life."

But we proceed on our route, passing the Post Office, its polite, and gentlemanly occupant bowing to us from the door, and coming next to the old mansion house of the original proprietor of Indian Island, and indeed of almost all creation, *Colonel Cutts*. It is a substantial and elegant building, with a gambrel roof, lutbern windows, small glass, and other insignia of a former age. The Colonel was one of the earliest settlers of the town, and commenced business as a trader in the porch of the small house now standing near the termination of the waste canal of the York Factories. From such a beginning, it is well known, he acquired a fortune of several hundred thousand dollars. Though ardently devoted to the acquisition of wealth, he was a man of great probity of character, benevolent and kind in his disposition, and highly esteemed in the community in which he lived.

On either side of the road, fronting the mansion house, were two fields formerly known under the significant soubriquet of the Colonel's vest pockets, One of them is now a brick yard, and the other is covered with factories. The Colonel, if permitted to revisit us, would probably be not a little puzzled in regard to his identity, finding his "pockets" thus stuffed—one with clay and brick, the other with spindles and pretty girls. By the way, how destructive are these manufacturers of the gracelfuness, beauty and poetry of nature. They are so awfully mathematic in all their movements—deal so much in direct lines and right angles, and bring everything into such a state of of horizontality, that, after living awhile in one of their villages, the sight even of a ram's horn is a great relief. Every hill must be cut down, every valley filled up—every gentle curve in the river straightened out with a jerk, and worse than all, the limpid stream made to resemble the contents of an old "dye pot." Ah, we have no patience with them. Utilitarian as we are, we had rather go without a shirt half the year than see the beauties of nature thus mutilated and destroyed.

Pursuing our course, we reached "the covered bridge" without the occurrence of anything particularly worthy of note. Entering the right hand passage, as we supposed the law required us to do, imagine our surprise at finding, when nearly across, Old Switch directly confronted by an impudent looking horse with a white face and wall eyes. On the dispersion of some of some of the dust, so that we could "take an observation," our surprise was by no means diminished at finding behind the white face and wall eyes, in an old green wagon, a man with a comical but not disagreeable face, his body enveloped in an old snuff-colored surtout with a fur collar, in apparent defiance of the weather, which was hot enough to make even a felt hat sweat.—We at first *looked* astonishment, then indignation, and then anger—but before we had time to give expression to any of these looks, in language, the old fellow,

putting on a face that would have excited the laughter of a gravestone, invited us to a discussion of the merits of "the covered bridge," especially in reference to its architectural qualities. Finding we were in for it, and having, as you know a spice of fun in our composition, and recollecting, moreover, the injunction of Solomon or some other wise man, of "fret not thy gizzard," we folded our arms and listened. "This," said he, "I regard as one of the most stupendous efforts of human genius. I have read of the Augean stables which were not cleansed for thirty years, and could then only be effected by a Hercules, aided by the whole current of the river Alpheus—I have studied and admired the proportions of Noah's ark—the *vessel* in which three wise men of Gotham went to sea—the fiddle of 'Bill Jonsing' which was happily converted into a mud scow, and other specimens of architectural beauty—but I have never seen or read of any thing that would compare with 'the covered bridge.' With Burns I can almost exclaim:—

"It might be worshipped on the bended knee,
And still the *second dread command* be free,
Its likeness is not found in earth, in air, or sea."

"It must be confessed, however," said he, "that the alteration, by which it is denuded of its pants, while the hat and jacket are retained, is a decided improvement. The consequent influx of light has caused, it is said, robberies and other crimes to be much less frequent, and enables one, in a good sunshiny day, to get through without the aid of a lantern—though not without the danger of dovetailing horses' heads and waggon shafts, as you and I have now done." Here he paused, apparently for a reply. What we *ought* to have replied to all this, we hardly know, even now; but upon the impulse of the moment, we forced a look of offended dignity, waived our hand oratorically and in tones that many a stump-speaker might have envied, said, "Sir, we have long known that it was *fashionable* to decry and ridicule this bridge. Perceiving, by your dress, that you are given to running after fashions, we are at no loss to account, in some measure, for your very ill-natured remarks. If in addition to this, we will but consider the almost irresistible force of *prejudice*, we need travel no further to find both the warp and filling of your slander. Permit us to say, Sir, that, in our opinion, this bridge is a very proper bridge. It is well constructed, convenient and safe, and will be found contributing to the benefit of the public, long after you and the whole race of grumblers shall have passed over the bridge of death." With a laugh that waked an echo in every shingle on the roof, he backed out and let us go on our way. Poor fellow—perhaps there was a screw loose in his "upper works." If so, we shall never forgive ourselves for the harshness of our reply to him.

Having reached the west end of "the covered bridge," we find that we are now approaching a point of great interest, the consideration of which we shall make the beginning of another letter, which probably will be dated from the top of "Nason's Hill."

Yours to serve, O. K.

[The above is the first of a series of six letters written in August 1847 by the late Governor Fairfield, under the *nom de plume*, O. K., to the editor of the Maine Democrat. They were published at the time in the Democrat, and are now handed to us in the form of clippings from that paper arranged so as to form a neat little volume. The face side of the fly leaf is inscribed in the author's own hand "John Fairfield"; the reverse side contains these words:

"Letters of O. K. published in the Maine Democrat, Saco.—The whole dedicated, and this volume affectionately presented to his beloved wife, by

THE AUTHOR."

The letters were written by Governor Fairfield while a member of the United States Senate. They were among the last acts of his life—he died in December of the same year.

Our readers will have no difficulty in following the Governor in his travels and identifying the various points and most of the objects of interest to which he refers. The Richard Cutts house stood at the corner of Main and Gooch streets. Many years ago it was removed to Biddeford and now stands on Alfred street, swarming with tenants. The Col. Cutts house still stands on the high ground overlooking the Saco, across Main street from the York Mills. The Saco post office, as the older inhabitants will remember, formerly stood on York Square.

The second letter will appear in the TIMES of next Wednesday, by which time the Governor will have reached Nason's Hill.—Ed.]

Biddeford as it Was—Indian Names—Saco River—Coffin House.

Gov. Sullivan—Judge Hubbard—Matthew Cobb—Judges Mellen and Preble—Judge Thacher—Squire Hill and Mr. Pierson—Nason's Hill—Mistakes of our Ancestors—Time's changes—Biddeford in its Old and New Dress—Rock Island—Various sweet and bitter fancies—The Perkinses—And so on.

LETTER II.

On emerging from "the covered bridge," on the western side, you enter the ancient and interesting town of Biddeford. Prior to 1718, the territory on both sides of the river was called Saco. The name was then changed to Biddeford, but for what reason, does not distinctly appear, probably, however, because some of the early settlers may have been from Biddeford in England. This name was retained until 1762, when the territory upon the Eastern side was incorporated as a separate town under the name of Pepperellborough. In 1805 this long and uncouth name was very judiciously changed to the more simple and euphonious one of Saco, the Indian name for the river—the people thereby displaying a taste which we wish had been more generally followed throughout the country. A large portion of the Indian names are not only highly poetical, and easy and musical in the pronunciation, but they might often have served valuable historical purposes. The Saco is a beautiful stream, taking its rise in the White Mountains of N. H., and within a few yards of the Ammanoosuck, one of the branches of the Connecticut, which runs in an opposite direction, and emptying itself after a meandering course of some 150 miles, into the Ocean between Saco and Biddeford. Having much of the way rocky banks, the waters are clear, and the descent being great, the current, of course, is rapid. It has numerous falls presenting scenery of great sublimity and beauty. At Great Falls in Hiram the descent is 72 feet. At Steep Falls in Limington 20 feet. At Salmon Falls 30 feet, and at Saco 42 feet. These are not all, but are among those of the greatest magnitude. It is subject to freshets in the spring, but being mainly supplied from springs and rivulets from the mountain sides, it is not so subject to severe droughts in midsummer as the Kennebec and Penobscot, which draw their resources from large but shallow lakes and ponds, from which, of course, the evaporation at times is very great. It has more good "privileges" on it, as they are called, than any river in Maine—has rich and fertile banks—abounds in valuable fish—presents, from its source to its mouth, the most beautiful and picturesque scenery—makes the purest and so idest ice in the world, and, if located in Scotland, would be celebrated in poetry and song, and have a name and fame that would fill the earth.

But to relieve your impatience at our slow progress, I wish you now distinctly to understand that we are "over the river"—the passage of the covered bridge has been safely accomplished—and we are now examining, with some curiosity, the first object that meets the eye as you leave the bridge—we mean the old house lately occupied by Edmund Coffin, Esq. This house is one of the very oldest in the place, has undergone a variety of metamorphoses, and abounds in interesting reminiscences. It is famous for once having been owned and occupied by the Hon. James Sullivan, afterwards Governor of the State of Massachusetts. Governor Sullivan here commenced his professional career in which he subsequently acquired much distinction. His reasons for commencing here, we presume, were not like those which influenced Judge Parker, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, in commencing practice in one of the poorest towns in Eastern Maine. On being inquired the reason for this step, "why," said he, "I found that I had to break into the world somewhere, and I thought, upon the whole, I would select the weakest place." Such could not have been the reasons of Governor Sullivan, as Biddeford was then one of the most considerable towns in the State—and though it has been enjoying a sort of Rip Van Winkle nap of half a century, it seems now like a young man just prepared to run a race. The Governor never forgot this "day of small things" with him, but long after removing to Boston, in a letter to Col. Tristram Jordan, he says: "I have a grateful remembrance of the marks of confidence, and the acts of kindness done me by the people on your river, and wherever I can reciprocate their goodness, I shall cheerfully do it."

The records of the town show many patriotic meetings of its citizens at the commencement of the revolutionary war, at which his name appears, and many spirited resolutions passed, emanating probably, from his pen.

But we have not referred to the only distinction of the Sullivan house. The Hon. Samuel Hubbard, now one of the able and eminent Judges of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, commenced his professional career in Biddeford, occupying the same house and room that had been previously occupied by Governor Sullivan. Many of our people, upon both sides of the river, retain a lively recollection of the then promising talents and agreeable qualities of the Judge—

and the Biddeford people still claim the credit of having placed him upon the track which has led to fame and fortune.

A few rods westerly of the Sullivan house stands the Cobb house. It was erected some sixty years ago by Matthew Cobb, who here commenced life, and acquired much of that great fortune which he left at the time of his death. Mr. Cobb removed from Biddeford as early as 1796 to Portland, and became a partner of the Hon. Asa Clapp, now living, and one of the wealthiest men in New England. The house subsequently became the residence of the Hon. Prentiss Mellen, late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine, and still later of Hon. Wm. P. Preble, another Judge of the same Court, who with other distinguished men selected this place "to break into the world." Directly opposite to the Cobb house, is the old Hooper house, in a chamber of which the Hon. George Thacher, the first representative to Congress from Maine, and afterwards a distinguished Judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, had an office. Judge Thatcher continued to reside in Biddeford until his death in 1823 or '4, with the exception of a short interval immediately after the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, when he resided in Newburyport. These were all men of eminence, and the influence of their residence could not fail, of course, to contribute much to elevate the character and importance of the place. Indeed, few towns out of our great cities, though with a much larger population, can boast of having "started in the world" so many distinguished and excellent men. We have many capital anecdotes of these gentlemen, but we should never reach the Pool, if we stopped to tell a tithe of them.

A little easterly of the Sullivan house stands the house originally built and occupied by Jeremiah Hill, Esq., a man of considerable distinction in his day, and now by the venerable Samuel Pierson, Esq. Mr. P. is now about ninety years of age, but has much of the vigor, physically and intellectually, of middle age, and indeed, much of the sprightliness and vivacity of youth. Like Judge Mellen, we trust he will enjoy a green old age to the last. He is one of those noble and venerated monuments on which the moss covered inscriptions of olden time, and the fresh chiselings of later years, are most agreeably intermingled.

Passing by several intetesting spots, where our time will not permit us to linger, we are happy to inform you that we are on the very "tip top" of Nason's hill, though the breath we have expended in accomplishing this ascent would have carried a lean man all the way to Boston. By this, you will of course understand, that we do not allow "old Switch" to draw us up such a hill. A man who would do that, would rob a pig of his dinner. The tests of human character are numerous, but there are some, which in the estimation of many, perhaps, may be regarded as trifling, that more unequivocally develop, and give a truer insight into, the character, than the studied and formal professions of a lifetime.

What a strange propensity our ancestors had, to locate their roads over high hills. If directness and shortening of distances was their object, they had yet to learn, that, generally, a line *over* a hill is as long as a horizontal line *around its base*. In going over the hill theretore, they not only gained nothing in distance, but lost immensely in the wear and tear of horse-flesh and human patience. A road down upon the bank of the river, in this case, would have avoided hills and furnished one of the most pleasant and picturesque rides in the town. On the top of this hill, lived anciently, Benjamin Nason, one of the earliest settlers of the place. He was a worthy man, of some eminence in his day, and left numerous descendant, who have rapidly diminished since that time. This hill has ever been famous for "coasting" or "sliding down hill," as we used to term it, and to this fame our own boyhood contributed a little. It was a sport that witnessed many a trip up of horses, many a broken head and torn breech, as well as many a merry time without accident. What a commentary on human life! How large a portion of time is spent in tugging and toiling up the hill of life, to—slide down again.

From this point is obtained an extensive and interesting view of both Saco and Biddeford. In the latter, what a change a few years has wrought.—One may now inquire, where is "Hill's sheep pasture," where "Freeman's orchard," where "Porter's field," and where "the mountains,"—and echo would answer where! her voice struggling hard to get out from among the nests of white cottages with green blinds. One acquainted with Biddeford as it was, would now, even after the lapse of a very few years, hardly recognize the old fellow in his new dress. Not that it is all new; for we observe that his long and bony feet resting upon the ocean, his spindle shanks extending to the foot of Nason's hill, as well as his head and neck are still arrayed in the ancient costume, while the body, having swelled enormously, is decked out with a "swell" vest of variegated colors, having pockets, either of them big enough, as he says, to hold the whole of Saco, while from his bosom flutters a frill furnishing, by its size, some indication of the extent of his manufacturies. But never mind if his dress, taken together, is a little outré,—we still say, God bless his jolly old face. He has always had a large share of our heart, and he now has our best wishes for his health prosperity and happiness. He has been sawing and coasting, and fishing and delving, for years without seeming to get ahead much: and if he now finds a bountiful board, an industrious and happy family, lands much increased in value, and a little "spare siller" in his pocked, no one is better deserving of such comforts and probably few could better appreciate them. In speaking of particular changes we would not omit to refer to "Rock Island," because our heart was really touched by the process which we saw going on there. The owner of the adjacent shore, it seems, is now filling up the space, channel and all, between the shore and the Island. The inexorable grasp of "improvement" had almost reached the poor Island which we could see, in our imagination, shrinking and trembling at a fate which it saw was inevitable. That Island which was once the *ultima thule* of our ambition in swimming,—the reaching of which we probably exulted over far more than did Lord Byron over the swimming of the Hellespont, is about to disappear. Very soon may we write of it "*Fuit Ilium*," and then, "who so poor to do it reverence." We—yes, we ourself—we pledge our honor and grey goose-quill, to stand between it and oblivion. They may pile their vile dirt upon it scores of fathoms deep, we will pluck it up by its drowning locks, embalm it in our memory, give it a place upon the page of history, and send it down to posterity with a name illumined with undying light. As we have an unfortunate habit of thinking aloud, "Old Switch" here turned his head and gave us a look, that said as plain as a horse *could* speak, "Psha! Oliver, you are getting into the heroics." This was a specimen of the hydropathic practice,—enveloping our enthusiasm in a sheet dripping with icy water. It was far more cooling than agreeable, we assure you, as "old Switch" probably afterward ascertained by the scant measure of his oats. Leaving Rock Island, however, for the present, let us cast our eyes down Cleaves' lane, and what do we see there but the enterprising Perkinses "cribbed and crammed into the circumference of a peck," like Falstaff in the buck basket. They build ships, in model, capacity, sailing qualities, and finish, inferior to none built in the United States, and yet, can hardly swing a maul without encroaching upon somebody's premises. Needing and deserving so much elbow room as those men do, we have been at a loss to perceive how, except by magic, they have been able to do such great things upon so small a theatre. Their late selection of a new place nearer the mouth of the river, we trust will prove as convenient and profitable, as it now seems to be judicious. This business of ship-building, by the way, has become one of the most important branches of industry in our State. Already does Maine stand first among the States of the Union, in the amount of tonnage built, and will probably soon stand first in extent of ownership. We abound in good ship timber,—in scientific and skilful builders,—worthy, industrious and hardy workmen,—in capacious, safe, and excellent harbors,—have an almost boundless interior connected with the ocean by navigable streams,—and indeed abundantly all the essential elements of commerce. What, then, is to prevent Maine from becoming, and no very distant day, the greatest commercial State in the Union?

Do you ask me when we expect to reach the Pool? That, my dear sir, is a matter wholly between me and "old Switch." Being an *old* man, we have a prescriptive right to be garrulous. If you don't like our random, rambling letters, just say so, frankly, and we are *o-p-h*, in a minute, "as the fly said to the mustard pot."

Yours, *almost* in a niff,

O. K.

[The above is the second of a series of letters written by the late Governor Fairfield in 1847. The third letter will appear in the TIMES of next Wednesday

The Coffin house above referred to, is still preserved, though completely disguised, on its original foundation on the corner of Hill and Main streets. It is owned by M. Burns and is divided into tenements. The Cobb house, a very weather beaten specimen, stands just about as it, no doubt, appeared in 1847, on the high ground, opposite the Laconia mill. It is a tenement occupied by very poor French families. The Hooper house was some years ago removed from the Laconia grounds, where it stood, and converted into a waste house. Afterwards it was again moved and its identity seems now to be lost. The Hill house remains standing on Pierson's lane. It, too, has been converted into a tenement house.]

Parson Webster—Old Jones and the Frogs—Bullets and Remorse.

Road to the Pool—Contest between nature and art—Cleaves' Orchard—Anti-Miller Indications—Westbrook, plus trouts, minus supper—The boy who was not bitten, and why—Curious antagonistical tendencies and operations—The wind mill that committed suicide—Hypochondria—The old burying ground—Picked up poetry—Parson Fletcher and the lost condition of Quakers—Another pond—The spirit appletree—Sand-banks and temperance willows—The old Jordan house—Indian Point—John Smith and the record.

"THE OLD BURYING GROUND" }
NEAR THE JORDAN SANDS, Aug. 1847. }

LETTER III.

The ride from Saco to the Pool is one of the pleasantest and most interesting to be found anywhere. We are hardly willing to except the "Fore-side road" between Portland and North Yarmouth. The road is extremely narrow and crooked, but hard as flint gravel can make it.—Its sudden turns are constantly presenting to you the most varied and beautiful scenery. The river, with all its windings on one hand, well cultivated fields, dense forests, huge piles of granite intermingled on the other, beautiful brooks and ponds everywhere, their margins lined with the graceful willow, and the roadside adorned with a variety of wild flowers, are among the things that keep the attention constantly awake, and make the ride so agreeable. How long this is to continue is a subject of both doubts and fears with us. The ruthless hand of innovation and "improvement," we fear will soon be widening, straightening, grading, tearing down and building up, until every vestige of its antiquity and native beauty shall have disappeared. When that day arrives, a ride to the Pool will be a very humdrum affair, and we know of one at least, who would infinitely prefer sculling his way, "solitary and alone" down the river in a fisherman's punt.

Leaving Nason's hill, you pass on your left, the splendid orchard of the late Daniel Cleaves, a gentleman who knew, not only how to accumulate a large fortune, but how to spend it in the gratification of a refined and well cultivated taste. The old Gilpatrick, Jordan and Gordon places follow in succession, having undergone but few changes for the last century, and strengthing a little the faith of such timid fellows as ourself in the permanency of the world. Crossing "West Brook" bridge, we were forcibly reminded of the "many a time and oft" that we had traced the brook—our own dear "West brook"—to its source, catching the beautiful golden trout. Ah, those were the days of enjoyment, when, with pockets full of worms, a hat full of trout, a heart devoid of care and a heart full of enthusiasm, we would trudge and swelter under a burning sun all day, and at night be sent supperless to bed for "playing truant." Among the many instances of vamping up old stories for new, we think we recognize one in the following, where a boy said to his father one day when there was no wind and the heavens were a little overcast; "Father they say the trout bite now." "Well, well my son," said the father, "you mind your work, and you may be sure they wont bite *you*."

Leaving West-brook bridge, you pass many interesting spots before you reach the Webster meeting-house, or rather a house made of the venerable relics of that old house, the very majesty of whose appearance would inspire us with more awe than a whole village of modern meeting-houses, with their ministers to boot. Mr. Webster was once the minister of the town, settled for life, after the custom of those days. A difficulty however, grew up in his church in consequence of a portion of them, including, we believe, the late Judge Thatcher and Jere Hill, Esq., being Unitarians. The difficulty increased, until it resulted in a compromise, by which Mr. Webster was to give up his pastoral relation, receiving $2,000. There being nothing in the contract, however, prohibiting his preaching in the same town or elsewhere, a considerable portion of the society followed Mr. Webster and retained him as their pastor till near the close of his life. In the meantime, the liberal portion of the church, who remained after the practical secession, erected a new house on the elevation just below "King's corner," which was long known under the imposing title of "Temple of Reason." But what is very curious in all this matter and indeed is the only point to which we have been tending, is, that the first clergyman settled in the Temple of Reason was the Rev. John Turner, whose orthodoxy was not a gwhit behind, or a degree cooler than that of John Calvin himself.

This curious fact was followed by one still more so, to wit, Mr. Webster becoming a Unitarian himself, and being fully reconciled to his former friends, Judge Thacher and Mr. Hill, with whom he lived on terms of the warmest intimacy through the remainder of their lives. But this is not all. When, in process of time the extreme age of Mr. Webster rendered it necessary to have a colleague, an *orthodox* man of the first water was selected, and by way of keeping up the contraries, soon afterward, an Unitarian clergyman, (the Rev. Thomas Tracy,) was settled at the "Temple of Reason." Whether this was all fortuitous, or brought about by special and ingenious efforts for the purpose, we are not familiar enough with those times to say.

Of Mr. Webster, our recollections are both vivid and pleasant. He was of the "Old school" of divines—loved a good dinner, and had a fund of anecdote as inexhaustible as the ocean. In stature, he was short, though his body was long. The latter, moreover, had a longitudinal expansion that seemed in better keeping with his tastes than his salary. From the rotundity of his body, shortness and smallness of his legs, some perhaps would be malicious enough to say, that he looked like a "robustious beer barrel standing upon skids"—we would say no such thing. He was a kind-hearted old man, and liked to see everybody happy. His stories were not only good in themselves, but their excellence derived an additional flavor from the *manner* in which they were related. From a paralytic affection, or some other cause, he was subject to a constant *shaking*, particularly of the head. His words, therefore, instead of coming from his mouth in a continued stream, propelled by the lungs, were *shook* out, and came along sufficiently *scattering* to allow you to enjoy the whole, and accompanied by his own peculiar laugh, which was irresistably contagious. There was a rich vein of humor running through his composition, which all the influence of his profession was unable to control. He was a gentleman of very respectable talents, and published several sermons which were highly creditable to him.

Passing from the Webster meeting-house, we soon come to the Pel. Moore place, where there is a beautiful brook dashing over slate ledges—willow trees in abundance—a graceful curve in the road—a rustic bridge, and other things to make it quite a romantic spot.

Half a mile farther on, we come to the "Lassell lane," leading to what was once a ferry across the river, the principal public travel then being, that is, before the day of bridges, along or near the seashore. Near the termination of this lane, on the elevated and beautiful Point nearly opposite the "Ferry place," we can just remember, once stood what was called a wind-mill. It was built for the grinding of corn, but was somehow very unfortunate at that business. The precise difficulties we may have forgotten, but believe that, in the first place, a gale of wind was required to set it in motion, and when once fairly under way, it went so like lightning, that it not only ground the corn, but its own stones and machinery, thereby becoming, to all intents and purposes, in the eye of the law, a *felo de se*. If Don Quixote could have seen it going under the pressure of one of our old fashioned northeasters, we doubt if he ever would have indulged the quixotic idea of attacking a windmill. It was more "terrible than an army with banners." This mill, we suspect, would hardly have been *called to order* by any of the good farmers in the neighborhood, if it had attempted what was once charged upon a member of one of the Western legislatures. This member, whose speeches measured rather better by their *superficial* than cubic contents—a man of words and *wind*, rather than of sense and substance—was one day blowing a tremendous blast upon his oratorical trumpet, stopping, however, at the end of almost every sentence to take breath and *sip water*, when another member rose to *a question of order*. "Please to state your point, sir," said the Speaker. "My question," said the wag, "is this: whether it is in order for a *wind* mill to go by *water*."

The *origin* of wind-mills seems to be involved in some obscurity. Can you enlighten us upon the subject? *Pomponius Sabinus*, who wrote in the fifteenth century, says they were in use among the Romans, but some are led to doubt it, as *Vitruvius* and *Seneca*, who wrote upon the power and advantages of wind, say nothing of them. Some have contended that they were in use in the sixth century, while others maintain that they were introduced into Europe by the Crusaders. *Gibbon* says they were first invented in the dry country of Asia Minor. Being in a hurry to reach the Pool, we cannot pursue the subject further at this time, but really hope that a point so full of one, at least, of the great elements of nature, will not be permitted, by our learned men, to remain much longer in obscurity.

Just before reaching "the old burying-ground" the remains of an old house, or rather a portion of its cellar is seen upon a high, rocky elevation, upon the right, and near to a pond, whose name we have forgotten. There, once stood the house of a Mr. Jones, and well do we recollect his lank and wrinkled visage, his drumstick legs, his red worsted cap, his woebegone, hen-pecked appearance. His wife *confined herself* to her bed for a great number of years, an incurable hypochondriac. Never have we felt a stronger draught upon our pity than when recollecting how she used to compel the old man to fill his pockets with stones, and sit upon the margin of the pond night after night, tossing them in at frequent intervals, thereby keeping the frogs

quiet, and permitting her to sleep. We never pass this pond without thinking of the poor old man, and offering up a prayer of *requiescat in pace* to his soul.

A few rods onward, upon the left, is "the old burying ground," from which our letter is dated. It is on a sandy eminence, and until within a year or two, has been entirely unenclosed, and exposed to all sorts of depredations. Often have we seen the bones lain bare by the sand being blown off. There were formerly many stones there with very quaint inscriptions and curious epitaphs upon them, and of a very ancient date, but now we observe but few left. We rejoice to perceive that the town has now surrounded this interesting spot with a substantial stone wall. Speaking of epitaphs, we picked one up the other day, written for a dog, which interested us not a little, inasmuch as we once had a dog of the same name, to whom we were much attached. We give it to you as we found it.

Beneath this stone—in this lone spot,
Poor "Bona" has his bed;
His Master's call he heedeth not—
To all caresses, dead.

No more his deep-mouthed, mellow bark,
Shall wake the drowsy night;
No more his bounding playfulness,
Shall give the boys delight.

The cattle in the pasture range,
Shall miss his merry call,
While grunters round the door rejoice
O'er his untimely fall.

How brief, to him, has been life's dream—
Scarce six months did it last;
And yet we may not *mourn* for him,
The *ills* of life are past.

From kicks of cross, unfeeling wights,
Stones from unthinking boys;
From snarles and growls, and bloody fights,
And hosts of canine woes,

He's haply 'scaped—Peace to thy soul,
If soul thou hadst, poor Bone;
We'll never be ashamed to love
What's been *a part of home*.

On this spot, or near it, so far as we have been able to trace the matter, the first regular meeting house was erected. There appears to have been no regular ministry until 1661, when the Rev. Seth Fletcher, was employed for one year. The first record on the town books in reference to him is as follows: "June, 1662. It is consented to make a rate for Mr. Fletcher's diet, £10. 3. 0." At a public meeting, the next month, the town hired a house of John Rice, "for the accommodation of the Minister," and agreed to pay him £5, therefor "merchantable fish." He does not appear to have been re-engaged at the end of his term, but in 1666, two candidates were balloted for, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Chauncey. The latter carried the election by a vote of twenty-four to eleven. He remained but one year, and at a town meeting in reference to him the following vote was passed: "It is the consent of the major part of this meeting, that Master Chauncey may be safely sent home as speedily and conveniently as may be. Mr. F. Cook and R. Booth are appointed by this meeting to take care for his passage at the town charge." The import of this is somewhat equivocal, but the most charitable view that can be taken of it is, that Mr. Chauncey was kindly removed to his home in Massachusetts in consequence of ill health. In 1669, Mr. Fletcher was re-engaged at a salary of £50 a year. In the valuable history of Mr. Folsom, we find a letter from this same Mr. Fletcher, to *Increase Mather*, dated at "Elizabeth Towne, March 25, 1681," from which we will make a brief extract. "I have been much molested with Quakers here, since I came. New ones coming in one after another. Upon February last, upon the motion of two of the sect, one of which two is a schoolmaster to some children in the town, (by nation a Scott, by name John Urquehart,) by former profession (as fame makes known to me) a Popish priest. A scholar he doth profess himself to be and I find that he hath the Latin tongue. The business of that day was for me to maintain an assertion, viz:

That a Quaker, living and dying as a Quaker, (without repentance) must find out a new gospel, which might afford them hope of Salvation, for that God hath revealed in his Holy Word, there was no salvation for them in their impenitent condition. I opened the terms, explicated by way of distinction of seducers and seduced, and to their sinnes, and likewise that God expected from the one and other sort, which being done, (although there were four or five more Quakers in the throng, yet none appearing in the Cause but the scholar aforesaid, and a Chirurgeon) I demanded of them what they had to say against my Explanation. Instead of speaking pertinently, the schollar begins to tell the people a story of Moses, Ezra, Habuccuk, their being Quakers. Whereupon, having the people on account of the business of the day, I proceeded to six several Arguments by which to make good my Assertion, viz: That a Quaker, liveing and dyeing as a Quaker, (without repentance) according to what God hath revealed in his Word, he could not be saved. I, in every argument, demanded what part of the Argument they would deny; but instead of answer, there was railing and threatening me that my destruction was nigh at hand. To prove the Minor, I continually produced their own authors, which so exceedingly gauled them, that then they set themselves to humming, singing, reeling their heads and bodies (Antique like,) whereby both to disturb mee and to take off the people from attending to what I had to say for maintaining the Assertion."

This extract is rather long, it must be confessed, but knowing how deeply you are interested in the study of polemics, we could not forbear giving you this admirable specimen. Besides, it is well enough to let the broad brims know what they have to expect hereafter. Poor, deluded souls! We suppose they have been living along in fancied security, relying upon their virtuous and holy lives, when their damnation was conclusively and incontrovertibly, (except by "humming" and "reeling") settled by the Rev. Seth Fletcher, as long ago as 1681.

The pond near by, (not the Jones' pond, but one on the other side of the hill,) though considerably diminished in size, is still *a pond*, and looks as placid and contented as it did when we were a boy.—How far that runs back into the shade of years, you will excuse us for not being very particular about. It still affords good beverage for horses, or else "old Switch" is a dissembler and a cheat. We have always regarded this pond with some degree of awe, from the circumstance of hearing related, when a mere child, with all the horrors with which some good old ladies can embellish a thing of that sort, the story of a man's pitching over his horse's head into the pond and being drowned, one dark night, having stopped to water his horse, as was supposed. The old apple tree, that once stood upon its margin, I could not find, not even its stump, nor the remnant of a stump. We were, therefore, half inclined to believe that from its long proximity to a graveyard it had become infected, and some dark night had *spirited* itself away, trunk, branches and root,—forever forsaking a spot where it had so long stood a faithful sentinel over a pond, which had, in turn, served as a mirror to reflect the old sentinel's stately proportions and beautiful foliage. Of one thing we are certain, that wherever it has gone, it carries in its body a bullet from 'long-tom,' planted there in 1814, under the aim of our own right eye. Well do we remember, when returning from Hill's Point westerly of the Pool, and from Jordan's Point, afterwards "Fort Squib," where we had been for a day or two, as "a gallant volunteer," in the cause of our country against the whole of Great Britain in general, and of the Bulwark, seventy-four, and all her barges, in particular, of expending a portion of our surplus courage and patriotism upon that poor old unoffending apple tree. As we have never done such a wanton, cruel thing since, we hope we have been forgiven for that.

Making a graceful turn around the pond to your right, there is presented, on your left, "*a heap*," as they say in the Western States, of dry, white sand,—and what we regard as a physiological anomaly, a grove of willows springing up out it, almost as joyous and rampant as if they were in their own native bed of low, wet soil. How is it to be accounted for? It looks as unnatural to us, as it would to see blackberries flourishing upon a snow drift. We know it has been said, that "this genus was regarded as the most difficult to understand of the whole vegetable world, as the male and female flowers are situated upon different plants, and appear before the expansion of the leaves." What then? This don't explain how such old *soakers* contrive to get along with *nothing in the world to drink*, for water would no more stop in that sand, than it would stop in a riddling sieve.

A little higher up and beyond the sand hill, stands the old Jordan house, now occupied by Ralph Tristram Jordan, Esq. It is one of the oldest houses in town, having been built by Judge Rishworth Jordan, who was among the most influential and distinguished of the early settlers. It is delightfully situated, commanding a fine view of the ocean and the river. It is about half a mile from the latter and directly opposite its mouth. At this point, by the river, among the croppings out of the ledges, and granite boulders, there is a rich soil covered with clusters of the walnut, which has a more beautiful foliage than any other of our forest trees. The whole scenery here is delightful and romantic—among other evidences of which, we might cite the fact, that the Indians from Penebscot and Passamaquoddy, who sail along the coast annually, in their birchen canoes, stopping at favorable points for the manufacture and sale of baskets, have pitched their tents upon this spot. We have always observed that they have a fine eye for the beauties of nature, and generally select the most romantic spots, even for a residence of a day.

Before closing this letter, we wish to communicate a fact which cannot fail to be interesting to the whole community. All of us have seen, even within a few years past, various things, good and bad, attributed to *John Smith*. We have even read of his being imprisoned, drowned, executed, &c., &c. Now we have the indubitable evidence of the records of the town of Biddeford, and he died somewhere between 1685 and 1700, although Mr. Folsom, in the history of Saco and Biddeford, says, "he outlived all the first planters, with the exception, perhaps, of Mr. Watts." His tenacity of life has

always been a matter of wonder, but though he could outlive *all the p'anters*, he could not outlive his *destiny*. Poor *John Smith*, like the rest of mankind, had to yield to inexorable fate, and take his place among the silent tenants of the grave. This fact, therefore, being conclusively settled *by the record*, against which, the lawyers say, we can aver nothing, we hope that hereafter the newspaper paragraph writers will let him rest in quietness and peace.

Yours as ever. O. K.

Some Antiquarian Facts—Saco Indians as Farmers.

The Pool, geographically, historically and-so-forthically—Husseys and Bunkers—Capt. Cutts—the British, and wanton destruction of private property—Sea of Galilee—Things fishy, and things not so fishy—Jonah and the whale—Attractions of the Pool—The "Peter Lawson"—Leland Family—Bacchus Island—Uncle Jotham—Chowder—Influence of imagination upon the stomach, &c.

"THE POOL," August 1847.

LETTER IV.

After our long, we will not say wearisome journey, we find ourself *at the Pool*, comfortably enclosed in one of Marm Hussey's big chairs. And now, having time to look about us a little, let's "take an observation," ascertain our latitude and longitude, and give some account geographically and historically of the place. And we give you fair notice that we shall not take it for granted that you know *anything* of the place at all. For, perchance if you do, all your readers may not. At all events, those who feel "wise above what is written, after this notice can hop and skip *ad libitum*. We claim a right to be sober once in a while as well as other folks.

We begin then, *secundem artem*. The latitude of this place is about 43 degs., 30 min. North, its longitude 70 degs., 20 min. West from Greenwich, and is about nine miles distant from Saco Falls, following the road, but probably not more than half that distance by a direct line. The word "Pool" is generally used as a sort of generic term, embracing "Fletcher's Neck" and "Winter Harbor," although, in fact they are distinct. Fletcher's Neck is a long, narrow, strip of land, extending Northeast and Southwest some two or three miles, and forms the sea wall on the South. On the Northerly side of this narrow strip, there is "the Pool" proper—a large basin of about a mile and a half in length, and half a mile wide, having an outlet upon the Northeast, of only a few rods wide, which is called "the Gut." On one side of the gut is the wharf of the late *Capt. Thomas Cutts*, and on the other, a high rocky bank. Through this narrow aperture, the water, upon both the flood and ebb tide, runs with almost frightful rapidity. Through this, and into the Pool, is often the resort of fishermen in times of severe storm, where perfect safety is found, from whichever quarter the wind may blow. The Neck extends down by this, Northeasterly, a mile or so farther, which, with Wood Island and Beach Island, near its eastern extremity, Negro Island on the north, and Stage Island on the northwest, enclose a space large enough to hold the whole British Navy, and constitute what is called "Winter Harbor." This, the outer harbor, is a very common resort for coasting and fishing vessels, hundreds of which may often be seen there, awaiting fair weather or a change of wind. A considerable portion of the Neck is a barren heap of sand, and loose, smooth stones. For cultivation, or any valuable purpose, a thousand acres of it would probably be worth about as much as a like quantity of clear, *blue sky*. On the ocean side, however, it has a beautiful hard beach, affording an excellent road from the main land to the promontory forming *the end* of the Neck, the latter being about a mile in length, and half a mile broad. The soil upon this, wherever it can struggle up between the rocks, is covered with a rich verdure, and yields bountifully of whatever is planted or sown. Upon this promontory, there are now some twenty houses, occupied principally by persons who have, until lately, devoted themselves to the fishing business in some one of its various branches. This is one of the earliest settled portions of New England, and was visited by a company under *Richard Vines* as early as 1616, four years before the landing at Plymouth. They were sent out by Sir Fernando Gorges, and after having explored the interior, to an extent not precisely known, they returned and spent the winter upon the Neck, near the head of the Pool. And hence, probably, the derivation of the name "Winter Harbor." In 1640, or thereabouts, Vines returned again, commenced a settlement, and continued to reside here—and in 1644 was chosen Governor of the Province by the General Court. This settlement was never broken up or seriously interrupted, but may be regarded as the original settlement of the town, though the subsequent accessions to the population were located higher up the river, the mouth of which is some two miles northwest from Winter Harbor. In a very ancient work published by *Samuel Parchas*, this river, the Saco, is thus described. "Seven daies journey to the South West of *Ashmahaga* there is another river that is sixe fathoms to the entrance; This river is named the *Shawakotoc*, and is halfe a mile broad; it runneth into the land fiftie daie's journey, but four days from the entrance it is so narrow that the trees growing on each side do so cross with their boughs and bodies on the other, as it is permitted not by any means to pass with boats that way; for which cause the inhabitants that on any occasion are to travel to the head, are forced to go by land, taking their way upon the West side." The inaccuracy of this description is equal to its quaintness—but is as correct as anything which could be expected at so early a period. By omitting the last syllable of *Shanakotoc* you will have something like the present name, and this shows us probably its true derivation. Mr. Folsom says that "a name similar to that in the preceding extract, was applied to our river by the celebrated *Captain Smith* who examined the Coast from Penobscot westward in 1641. After describing the Kennebec, Smith proceeds: "Westward of this river is the country of *Aucocisco* (Casco) in the bottom of a large, deep bay, full of many great Isles, which divide it into many good harbors. SAWOCOTUCK is the next in the edge of a large, sandy bay, which has many rocks and isles, but few good harbors except for barks (that) I yet know." The change of this word to *Saco*, it will be perceived, is natural and easy. *Demonts* and *Champlain*, who published a history of their explorations along the coast, thus speak of our river and of an Island known as "Wood Island." "Having left the Kennebec, we ran along the coast to the westward, and cast anchor under a small Island near the main land, where we saw twenty or more natives. I here visited an Island beautifully clothed with a fine growth of fruit trees, particularly of the oak and walnut, and overspread with vine that in their season produces excellent grapes; the first that I had seen since leaving Cape de la Here. He named it the island of *Bacchus*. At high water we weighed anchor and ran up a small river, found here. There is but half a fathom of water on the bar at low tide, and almost nine, sometimes twelve feet at high tide; within, there is a depth of four, five and six fathoms. As soon as we had cast anchor, a number of Indians appeared on the banks of the river, and began to dance. Their chief was not among them; he came two or three hours after with two canoes, and took a turn around our ship. This river is called by the natives *Chouacoet*," pronounced nearly, says Folsom, *Shwar'co*. *De Laet*, in a work published in Latin prior to 1620, says, in speaking of what is now "Wood Island," that it was called by the French, Bacchus but by our countrymen, *Wiingaerden Eglandt*, (Vineyard Island) from the great abudance of grapes found growing there." In speaking of the Indians found upon the banks of the river he says: "They cultivate the soil in a different manner from the Indians who live east of them; they plant maize, (Indian corn) and striped beans together, so that the stalks of the former answer the purpose of poles for the vines to run upon. Their fields are enclosed and kept free from bushes; they plant in May and harvest in September.—Walnut trees grow here, but inferior to ours; vines are abundant and it is said by the French, that the grapes gathered in July, make good wine. The natives also raise pumpkins and tobacco. They have permanent places of abode, not roving about like other savages. Their cabins are covered with oak bark, and are defended from the attacks of enemies by a wall of palisades."

Those who believe that Saco and Biddeford are the Paradise of the new world, and that, in all respects, we are a little superior to the rest of creation, will not fail to find agreeable food for their fancies in the foregoing. For, it seems that even *our Indians* were a good deal better than common Indians. And indeed, we should think they were somewhat in advance, in civilization, of Europeans of that day, notwithstanding all their boastful pretensions.

Among the early settlers on the Neck, were the Husseys and Bunkers. They were Quakers, and in spite of Parson Fletcher's "doctrine," were excellent citizens, and highly beloved by everybody. —The last "Uncle Christopher Hussey," who died some 12 or 15 years ago, then somewhat advanced in years, for many years entertained parties from "the Falls," and indeed, though he did not keep under that name a public house, his hospitable door was always open. His wife, we believe was a Bunker. She is still living, and her bonnie sweet face under a mob cap and a huge pair of black, bowed spectacles has just presented itself at the door to see "if thee is comfortable, or will be helped to anything." Their house was built in 1738, has the old-fashioned hipped roof, and is a good, comfortable, old Quaker house yet. We found it crowded with excellent company, mostly, we believe, from Massachusetts, and was only by dint of the mortage growing out of our old acquaintanceship, that we came in for a share of the chowder, either first or second table, as the case might be, and leave for "old

Switch" to stand behind the stable and eat good provender, or fish bones and clam shells according to his humor, for even he seemed to be aware that we were on an excursion of no ordinary character. As for a bed, it was as impossible to obtain one, as it was at Bangor during the "land fever," when fifty cents was paid for leave to lean against a sign-post. We were happy to find a young "Christopher" growing up there, who, by his even Quaker temper, kind and obliging disposition, and *moderate charges*, was preparing to fill the place of his excellent old grandfather.

A little higher up on the Neck, at the mouth of the Pool, *Cap. Thomas Cutts*, son of the *Colonel* of whom we have before spoken, some fifty or sixty years ago established himself, erecting a house, large blocks of stores, and large and substantial wharves. Capt. Cutts was for many years extensively engaged in commerce, built a great number of vessels, some of them ships of immense size, for that day, for the European freighting business. He acquired a large fortune, which was very much diminished, however, by the disasters of the war of 1812. At one time the Bulwark, a British 74, lying off the harbor, sent in her boats full of officers and men, who burnt a new ship upon the stocks nearly finished, destroyed another, carried off a third, and compelled Capt. Cutts to ransom her, with specie to a large amount. The goods in the store, and other property, were taken or destroyed. This wanton destruction of private property characterized the course of the British during the whole war. And indeed, the whole career of that government, notwithstanding its high pretentions on the score of civilization and refinement, has been marked with the greatest violations, not only of national law, but of the laws of humanity and national comity.

Since the death of Capt. Cutts, and indeed many years previous, this place had ceased to be one of much commerce. It was almost entirely monopolized, both land and water, by the fishermen, and has often with its nets spread to dry, its boats resting lazily upon the shore, and the fishermen laying about upon the rocks in scattered groups, reminded us of what we supposed the villages to be on the shores of the sea of Galilee. But now, after an existence of two centuries, without material change, except a gradual accumulation of moss upon the buildings and stones, and perhaps a slight diminution of the clams and lobsters, it has suddenly sprung into a place of no little consequence, and in a few years, may rival many of the fashionable watering places farther South. As if by magic, many of the houses have doffed their old, mossy, red, brown and green coats, and put on "bran fire new" ones of white and yellow. The *fishiness* of the place, either in appearance or *smell*, is not entirely gone, but there is no difficulty in sleeping there now a whole night without dreaming that you are with Jonah in the whale's belly, or that you have swallowed a whole school of fish that obstinately refuse to undergo the process of digestion.

Seriously, it has become one of the most delightful places to spend the hot weather during summer, that we know of. There is scarcely a day that you are not favored with cool breezes from the ocean, and often, when we, at "The Falls," are sweltering under a burning sun, the mercury ranging from 90 to 100 degrees, at the Pool they are as comfortable as cucumbers laying in ice water. The facilities for bathing in *fresh* salt water are excellent, and for fishing and sailing there are an abundance of excellent boats, equipped with the paraphernalia of a fisherman. If one does not like the mereiless tossings of the billows, and the consequent "casting up of account," embracing everything but the soles of his shoes, he may stand upon the Cutts' wharf and catch fish by the hundreds in an hour, including pollock, cunners, plaice, eels, skulpins, and sometimes mackeral. Among the boats at the Pool, we cannot forbear to mention the "Lawson," bearing the name of some clever fellow in Massachusetts, who knows how to appreciate the enjoyments of the place and who generously gave the boat a splendid suit of sails. This boat is very capacious neat, and comfortable. She sails like the wind, draws but little water, having a center board; is as stiff as Stage Island, and can no more be upset, even in a squall, than the town pound. To those who love a good sail, we commend them to the Lawson. But we are glad to perceive that Mr. Lawson is not alone in discovering and appreciating the attractions of the Pool. Nearly every house here, including, of course, the excellent public house kept by Mr. Hill, is crowded with people from the interior towns of Massachusetts, who spend a large portion of the summer here, enjoying the pleasures of hunting, sailing, fishing, etc.—or as invalids in gathering up health and strength without measure, by the renovating power of sea air and sea bathing. We had the pleasure of seeing, among others, the children of our late estimable and venerated fellow citizen, the late *Joseph Leland, Esq.* with their interesting families, drawn together from various parts of the country, and numerous enough to give one house, at least, something of a plethora. Such annual family gatherings are delightful, and a practice that, in the days of our great-grandfather-hood, we mean to exact of our descendants, under the pains and penalties of disinheritance. We shall miss greatly in our calculations, if the wants of the public do not soon call for large and splendid hotels, and for the multiplication of boarding houses, until, in newness and freshness, "The Neck" shall look like some young factory village strayed away from its keepers, to take a peep at the ocean.

"Bachus," or moderuly speaking, Wood Island, (ah, little does uncle Jotham, who tends the lighthouse there, think how long he has been patronizing the god of wine.) affords a pleasant resort in the heat of the day. Although the vines and the grapes found there two hundred years ago, are among the lost things of the earth, still it abounds, or did a few years ago, in raspberries and other fruit—is covered with most splendid firs, bass, and other forest trees, and gives you winding paths and umbrageous walks, equal to those of the once renowned Vulombrosa. Or if one has a touch of human nature about him, he can push on to the southeast end of the Island, where "*Uncle Jotham*" will give him a *chowder* more delicious than any dish that Epicurus or his disciples ever dreamed of. Ah, *such* chowders! There is but one man living, who can take the wind out of his sails in this accomplishment. We shall not name him, but he is a young friend of ours, tall, straight and good-looking—wears glasses, and is one of those, who, if riding on a streak of lightning, would probably *whip up*. Again we say, *such* chowders! Really, Hanscom, we have "no stomach" to write any more, so

Yours, as ever,

O. K.

Natural Productions of the Pool—A Fishy Letter.

The lobster; nature of, mode of taking, etc.—Clams—'Faith and clams"—The dog that was "sucked in"—Natural clam diggeers—Halibut and mackerel—Character and habits of the latter—The fishing business—Sketches of character.

LETTER V.

You will recollect we are now at the "Pool." Among the first things, you know, with the geographer in describing a country, after giving the boundaries, is to enumerate its natural productions. Now, though no geographer, we should feel that we had committed a very great sin of ommission, if we failed to speak of some of the natural productions of the "Pool." And, among these, what deserves to be named among the lobsters? Among all the varieties of fish, whether crustaceous or otherwise, there is nothing that can *shell out* such inviting and excellent food. They abound in the waters of "Winter Harbor" and all about "The Neck"—and are usually caught in a sort of basket trap, which is sunk at the proper place, and the lobster tolled into it by an appropriate bait. The construction of the trap is such, that once in, the lobsters are unable to get out. We have seen them caught with the spear, where the water was shoal, and grand sport it was. Far pleasanter, most will think, than "Old black Peter's" mode of catching them. He was a negro who lived and died many long years ago, on the back of "The Neck." He had several strapping children, boys and girls, any of whom would have regarded a fight with a sea serpent as rare sport. These he used to take with him, in his batteau, when on an expedition for lobsters. The old man, with two small oars, rowing "cross-handed," would pull the boat over the ledges and shoal places, the children ranged upon each side watching for lobsters. When one was discovered, a bare foot was thrust overboard, the great toe placed in the lobster's claw, and in a twinkling the lobster was safely on board the boat. A spike or small iron pry quickly caused the grasp of the claw to relapse, when the toe being released was ready for a similar service. This seems, to be sure, rather a cruel process, but you recollect the old fishwoman's reply to one who complained of the cruelty of stripping off the skins of eels, while the latter were alive: "Lor' bess yer Honor," said she, "its nothing when they ge s used to it." For the accuracy of all our stories, we of course are not willing to pledge our personal veracity. You must take them as we have done, and subject, occasionally, to a little embellishment.

These fish have not only supplied the demands for them at Saco and Biddeford, and all the country back of them, but large quantities are annually carried to Boston and New York, where they are regarded as great luxuries. Their preservation has been attempted again and again, by "shad and alewive" legislatures, but their own natural fecundity accomplishes this purpose far better than penal exactments. Doctor Baster, a naturalist of some distinction, says he "counted 12 444 eggs under the tail of a female lobster, besides those that remained in the body unproduced." The attempt to increase or diminish such creatures by artificial means, would probably be about as effectual as Dame Part-

ington's attempt to mop up the ocean Our lobster belongs to the genus *Crawfish*, which we have seen thus described: "A crustaceous genus, belonging to the family of *decapoda macrouma* (ten legged, long tailed) characterized by having the anterior part of the enlongated, semi-cylindric, superior shell produced to form a rostrum or beak; the abdomen large, slightly attenuated posteriorly, composed of six joints, forming a tail quite as long, when extended, as the body, and terminating in five broad-fringed swimming appendages, which fold laterally upon each other. In both sexes the under part of the abdomen is generally provided with five pairs of false claws, each terminated by two plates or plamonts. The exterior jaw-feet are mostly narrow, elongated, and do not entirely cover the other parts of the mouth. The gills are pyramidical, brush-shaped or plume-like, separated from each other by tendinous slips, and situated beneath the sides of the great superior shell, over the external base of the feet." There—if your breath has held out to go through with this, just inform me, if, in your opinion, anything is easier than for a man with a little learning to make a great fool of himself. Repeat such a description to a man who has been engaged all his life catching lobsters, and he would suppose you were either "talking Dutch," or that you were a little demented, and did not know exactly what you were talking about.

There are, however, a few peculiarities about these fish which it may be worth while to notice. It is said that their shell is annually renewed. At a particular season of the year, they apparently become "sick, languid and restless"—their flesh contracts, so as to enable them to draw the whole through the narrow joints and apertures, the old shell is then cast, and they remain only a few days before a new one begins to form. Some old fishermen with whom we have conversed, while admitting that the lobster renews its shell, as they occasionally catch them while the shell is new and soft, deny that this is done annually. And we must confess the reason offered, has great force viz: that lobsters are often caught covered with barnacles several years old. It is therefore, upon the whole probable, that if the shell is changed annually, it is only up to a certain period, when they cease to grow and become stationary. It is in the interval between the old and new shell, and while the latter retains its softness and elasticity, that the lobster obtains its growth for the year. Claws are occasionally lost in their combats with each other, which are said to be conducted with great ferocity, and by means of heavy thunder or the firing of cannon; but the facility with which they are restored, though never attaining the size of the lost ones, is most wonderful. The fact of their being sensible to the shock produced by the firing of cannon, seems to be well authenticated, and to this cause is attributed the fact of their having entirely deserted New York bay during the war of the revolution.—When first taken from the water, their color is a dark green or brown. They become red only by boiling, which is always done before they are sent to market. We recollect to have seen a painting, in which, (the artist probably being unaware of this fact,) fishermen were represented as hauling into their boats from the water, lobsters as red as the comb of a turkey cock.

You have undoubtedly eaten the lobster sallad. There are few things that surpass it among mortal dishes. The Boston and New York epicures understand that thing far better, we fear, than they know *when they have eaten enough*.

Among the *natural* productions of the Pool, we ought not to omit the mention of *clams*.—The flats surrounding the Pool are full of the small white clam, which, except during the summer months, is, in the estimation of many, but little inferior to the oyster, especially when cooked as they are at what are called "Clam-bakes"—a kind of social, hilarious gathering, peculiar to Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The process is this: A hollow place is found or made in the ledge upon the shore, and heated by a long continued wood fire until it is like a baker's oven. Into this the clams, by tens of bushels, are thrown, and covered with green sea-weed. In less than half an hour, on drawing aside the sea-weed, they will all be found gaping to their utmost stretch, and inviting you to partake. They are eaten directly from the shell, after dipping them in a bowl of vinegar and pepper, and are delicious, however much city exquisites may choose to turn up their nose at them.

They are not only an excellent article of food, but are extensively used by fishermen for bait, and at times are their only reliance, as "hardheads" cannot be taken at pleasure.

They can bring their shells together with great force, and we shall not readily forget the time when a dog, sitting upon his haunches, and resting his tail in fancied security upon the ground, had it caught by one of the largest sized clams. The way he ran, said one standing by, "wasn't slow, I tell ye"—and the noise he made could not have been exceeded by a kennel of dogs and pups, and as many cats and kittens, all suddenly intermixed while in a state of excitement. The swinish part of creation at the Pool seems to be well adapted by nature for their peculiar location. For a considerable portion of the year, they obtain their food upon the flats, and being destitute of spades, nature has furnished them with a long, picked snout, and practice has given them skill, so that they turn up clams with great dexterity. We do not recollect to have heard of hogs being caught by the nose as the dog was by the tail. Why is it—unless the clam has a touch of the Jew about him and abominates pork?

There are some people who have a peculiar way of swearing, as well as Bob Acres in Sheridan's Play of the Rivals, whom we have often heard using the term, by way of exclamation, "*Oh, faith and clams!*" Can you give us the origin for it? Our researches for this purpose have extended no farther back than the landing of our forefathers upon the rock of Plymouth. It is well known that at one time they were kept from starvation by "the treasure hid in the sands" of Cape Cod, and their faith that an overruling Providence would sustain them and bring them triumphantly through all their perils. May not the phrase or exclamation be fairly traceable to this source? Oh, "*faith and clams!*" a much larger portion of the present prosperity, happiness and glory of New England may be attributable to you than her proud sons are now willing to admit! After showing this honorable and effectual agency of the clam in building up a great republic, finding a parallel in the formation of coral islands, we hope it will no longer be used by our orators as the synonime of *stupidity*. "As stupid as a clam" is a comparison that we have often heard used as flippantly and unfeelingly as if the clam was "nobody nor nothing."

Again we ask our good mothers how they can be so unjust to the character of this inoffensive creature as to give its name to the worst kind of bread. If, the yeast being bad, or for some other cause, the bread comes from the oven heavy and glutinous, forthwith it is pronounced to be *clammy*, when the poor clam is as innocent of the whole matter as the fish from which Peter took the tribute money. But, not merely bad bread but bad boys find a subject for comparison in clams. If you ever heard the phrase, "*shut up your clamshell*" used, in the imperative mood and with considerable acidity of emphasis, you have only heard it applied to a bad boy, or to some one who was being very saucy and impudent.—Against this we hope the clams will "solemnly protest," and be very *clamorous* about it too, if they choose.

In speaking of other productions of the Pool, perhaps it would be fair to include halibut, mackerel, cod, pollock, hake, haddock, cusk, &c., &c., notwithstanding these fish are to be found all along shore. But, wherever found, most of them, particularly the halibut and mackerel, are inferior to no fish in the world. We say this advisedly, well knowing that we incur the risk of having every salmon's tail from the waters of the Kennebec and Penobscot shook at us with astonishment and indignation. We tire of salmon in a few weeks, but of halibut and mackerel one would almost as soon tire of working his lungs.—Near by, on Hill's beach and on the Old Orchard beach, are also caught in great abundance, when attention is paid to it, the striped bass, known at the South as the *Rock fish*, where it is esteemed as perhaps the very best fish they have. In this section, for some reason or other, it does not appear to be so highly appreciated.

The mackerel is a migratory fish, visiting our coast annually. If we recollect rightly, it strikes the coast first, say about the 20th of May, near the Capes of Deleware, and then gradually and slowly wends its way North, and finally disappears off our extreme Northern and Eastern coasts. When they first strike the coast they are, generally, small and poor, but continue to increase in size and fatness as they come North. They are very capricious in their habits. While, at one time, they take the bait freely, and may be caught with hook and line in quantities without limit, at others they spurn all kinds of bait, and can only be caught by a net. When first taken from the water, they are beautiful both in shape and colors. The latter, however, like those of the dolphin, lose much of their brilliancy after death. This is the same fish that was so celebrated with the ancient Romans, with which they made a pickle or sauce called *Sarum*, and which was so highly esteemed.—Can you tell me where they come from?—They come upon our coast, it seems, in the spring, leave early in the autumn to appear again or some others in their stead, the next spring. In conversation with an intelligent traveller, a year or two ago, he informed us that at a particular time of the year, which we have forgotten, a small fish, say three inches in length, precisely resembling our mackerel, was very abundant in the waters about Constantinople. It is not very probable, then, that the mackerel is spawned in the Black Sea; and afterwards comes through the Bosphorus into the Mediterranean, from thence to the Atlantic, and then across the ocean to our own shores? Perhaps the learned naturalist, if such an one should condescend to read our humble letters, may laugh at our simplicity. But who cares? We have no scientific reputation to be affected by an erroneous opinion, and shall therefore hazard an opinion upon any and all subjects as we list.

The fishing business here is not confined to those who live at the Pool, or to those up the river, but quite a number of small vessels come here annually from Gloucester, Squam, Newburyport and other places along shore, and spend the fishing season. Their fish are pickled and dried upon the Neck, or upon the Islands, generally, by those who make it their business, and in the autumn are carried home, cured, and ready for a market. It is not necessary for them to go more than twenty miles to enrich their best fishing grounds, and in consequence of this constant proximity to a harbor, disasters seldom occur. With the Marblehead and Cape Cod fishermen who go to the Grand Banks and Newfoundland, it is otherwise. The frequent loss of vessels with all their crews, shows it to be a business fraught with immense peril. We have heard it stated that Marblehead has no more inhabitants and no more wealth now than it had prior to the revolution, growing out of the precariousness and dangers of the fishing business, to which the people here have been mainly devoted. And in many of the towns upon Cape Cod, it is said that *widows* constitute a very large proportion of the whole population.

We have always felt a peculiar interest in fishermen. They have many traits of character that mark them favorably among the various classes of our people. So large a portion of the Apostles and most intimate friends of our Saviour, having been selected by him from among the fishermen, is certainly a distinction of which they may ever feel proud. That this was done to furnish proof that the power of Christ was derived from God alone, and to show that his religion was not dependent upon, nor essentially connected with learning, wealth, or human greatness of any sort, but was wholly spiritual, and adapted to the capacities and wants of the poor and illiterate, there can be no doubt. It has also been well observed that all great movements in society have their origin with the lower classes. But we have always had an indefinable impression that in addition to these, our Savior had some peculiar object in selecting *fishermen* in preference to other classes. It is certain they have undergone fewer changes than any other portion of the human race. They have had the same distinctive features for "a time whereof the memory of man, if not history, runneth not to the contrary," nor is there any indication of essential change for the future. They are generally an inoffensive set of men, and under a rough exterior, carry warm and benevolent hearts. We never knew an instance where they did not appear to take pleasure in rendering assistance where it was needed, and in doing acts of kindness. The nature of their business necessarily deprives them of most of the ordinary outward means for religious instruction, nor do we think, as a class, that they are generally religious by *profession*—but they certainly exhibit in their lives many of those homely virtues which our Savior, in his sermon on the Mount, gave so conspicuous a place among the elements of moral goodness. Their constant dependence on the favors of Providence for success in their business has contributed probably to give a religious tinge to their character, while their constant exposure to the perils and hardships of a sea life, begets a spirit of adventurousness and bravery, which makes them so formidable and daring when transferred to our ships of war. The united testimony of all our naval commanders is, that Northern fishermen are the best men in the world, whether in the ordinary discharge of ship duty, or in the soul-trying emergencies of battle.

It is to be regretted that their business is often so unprofitable as to compel them to abandon it for something else. No one, we suspect, ever heard of a fisherman's becoming rich by his business. This being well understood, moderate wants and a spirit of contentment are prominent elements in their character. There is one fact in regard to fishermen, which we cannot omit in this slight sketch—and that is, that seldom are they found arraigned at the bar of justice for the commission of crimes or lesser offences, or even found engaged in litigation. This fact, which the frequenters of our Courts will readily admit, is creditable to them and strongly indicative of the sound moral feeling prevailing among them.

But we fear we have been spinning this yarn to an unreasonable length, so we will slip the band and let the old wheel stand another week,—*perhaps* forever. Yours, *for the present*,

O. K.

The Return Trip—Home—Apologies—Yankee Curiosity—Finis.

LETTER VI.

In the Convention which framed the excellent constitution of Maine, one of the members (General H.) received from a colleague the following neat compliment: "The gentleman from B.," said he, "never rises unless he has *something to say*, and always sits down *when he is done*." There is indeed but few things more difficult than for one to know *when to stop*, whether he be making a speech, or writing a tale or a sermon. To have escaped both the faults implied in the reverse of General H's compliment, is more than we could reasonably expect. The first however, it is too late to correct, and, in reference to the latter, we take occasion to say, that at the close of this letter, we shall, as the sailor's phrase is, *haul taut and belay*. "The least said is soonest mended," though perhaps originating with one who in fact had nothing to say, is, nevertheless, an old saw containing a good deal of practical wisdom.

In returning, the pace of "old Switch" we found increased to double quick time without any coercion on our part: so much, thought we, for the attractions of HOME. Ah, who can be insensible to the blessed influences of that place where the affections strike their roots so deeply, and where, with proper culture, a bountiful harvest never fails. "Old Swith," however, was not in such hot haste that he could not stop at the head of the Pool and take a hearty draught from the pond there located. This is a pond of great beauty, and well deserving a passing word. It lies low and is partially surrounded by salt water, having the ocean and the waters of the Pool on two of its sides. The only barrier between it and the ocean, is the bank of loose sand and paving stones, of which we have before spoken, and between it and the Pool, a marsh, apparently but little elevated above the level of the pond. It always seems in great danger of being overflowed from one side or the other, though we are not aware that such a catastrophe has ever occurred. The water is nearly transparent, causing but little obstruction to your view of the clear white sand at the bottom. In the centre of the pond, which is nearly circular, and perhaps some dozen rods across, a rises a little conical island covered with the bayberry bush. It looks like a thing of life, and may be regarded as the guardian divinity of the pond.

In looking for the odd places upon the road, we did not discover where "Mother Fisher," as she was called, once lived. Can any one inform us? We only knew her by her *works*. At one period, just within our recollection, there were few houses in the lower part of Biddeford, which were not ornamented by her *paintings*. They were done in water colors, and no description could do them justice. They must be seen to be appreciated.—We cannot pretend that she had the skill of Caprelli, who painted a bottle of spruce beer so naturally that the cock flew out before he had time to paint a string to tie it. But then, her trees, houses, fences, etc., if not so *natural* as they might have been, had the good quality of being *stiff* enough to resist a hurricane—a consideration never overlooked by we Yankee farmers. Oh, how often in childhood, have we viewed with admiration her stately rows of poplars, like a company of grenadiers standing sentinels around a house combining every order of architecture, from the magnificent and beautiful Corinthian, down to a Black-Point goose pen. Her skies were decidedly more Londonish than American or Italian, partaking, as they did, of smoke, porter and drizzle. Her walking people all looked as if they had suddenly been brought under the influence of animal magnetism and paralysed while one foot was in the air and the head in the attitude of one about to sneeze. Her flowers, though rather gaudy, and partaking perhaps, a little too much of the rubicund visage of the good old lady, certainly had the merit of looking as if they might be *smelt*, even through the glass. Ah, *Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Fisher*—never can we repay her the delight she afforded our infancy, by the inimitable productions of her pencil. We cannot even give a personal sketch now, not having been so particular in our inquiries as we should have been. We recollect that she was regarded as a prodigy of learning, a great poetess; and, indeed, as a sort of fallen angel. She was an itinerant advertisement and pedler of her own productions, and made a driving business of it. She always claiming some high decent, but our researches have left it as untraceable as was that of Melchisedec, king of Salem. We do not mean this as any imputation upon her, but simply on our own part, to show, *Sam Patch* to the contrary notwithstanding, that some things can't be done as well as others. Time and opportunity, however, may yet enable us to do her better justice.

By the way, Hanscom, we wish you or some one holding a ready pen would give the public some biographical sketches of distinguished men and women of ancient Biddeford and Saco. For us, we have neither the time just now, nor the necessary information or tact for such a task. We are sure, however, such a service rendered the public would be duly appreciated, and could not fail to be deeply interesting. Whatever may be the general impression, we are persuaded that few men have ever lived, of any considerable distinction in society, whose lives would not furnish incident enough for interesting biographical sketches, especially if the sketches be founded upon personal relation, and affairs of the heart included. There is a far more of *romance* in real life than many people suppose.—And every village, nay more, almost every family in the village has a magazine within itself, filled with materials, which, arranged by the hand of skill, and passing under the magic touches of the pen

of genius, would more effectually reach the deep places of the soul, and possess a profounder and more thrilling interest, by far, than the whole mass of sickly, sentimental trash with which the world seems now to be flooded. But enough of this.

Night soon overtaking us, we were deprived of the opportunity of retouching, and correcting, and adding to, our sketch on the route down—so what the world has lost by the sun's retiring to rest so early that evening, and drawing the sable curtain of night around him, will never be known. It probably will not cause so much speculation as the authorship of Junius, but still the world is wonderfully *curious*. And the Yankee of all men, you know, cannot bear the idea of dying, or of letting anybody else die, before he has unravelled every secret thing.

The remainder of our journey homeward was accomplished without particular incident. The descent of Nason's hill, dark as it was, was effected safely, though we have often thought that a *parachute* is almost as necessary for such a descent, as it would be in letting one's self down from a balloon. Even the "*covered* bridge" was safely passed, walking, as we did, by *faith* and not by *sight*. When once fairly in, it is about as well to shut your eyes and trust to the sagacity of your horse. If you undertake to guide him, ten to one you will find yourself making "traverse sailing" all the way through, making about an equal number of hits on both sides.

But here we are, safely at home—have received the congratulations of Wife, a boisterous but hearty welcome from the children, drank a cup of tea, given 'Old Switch' his oats, shook the paw of Jowler while he shook his tail, and have nothing remaining to do but to thank you for the large space you have given us in your excellent paper, in our humble effort to shake out a few wrinkles from the brow of care; and to ask pardon of *some* of your readers for any excess of levity which they may have discovered; assuring them, that the next time we write, it shall be for their exclusive benefit; when our essays will display far more of the color of the ink than the paper, and appear as sombre and woe-begone, though not so *long*, as old Jones' face after a hard night's service in spoiling the music of the frogs.

Yours in parting, O. K.

Stuart Robson tells a good anecdote of General Grant as follows: "Crane and myself were playing some years ago in a well-known manager's theatre out of New York. The first act was over and we were chatting in the wings with our manager, when one of the boys rushed up to tell us that General Grant and his family were in one of the boxes. A flush of gratified pride mounted to the managerial face, followed by a look of agonized doubt, as he evidently reflected that perhaps the General had 'deadheaded' into the box. 'Did you send him a box, Robson?' he asked me, and on my replying in the negative, he pulled a card out of his pocket, and scribbling a line on it, told the boy to take it to the box office and bring back an answer. The boy rushed off, his head full of the General, and returned in a few minutes with the same card, which he handed to Mr. Manager. A ghastly look crossed his face as he read it and without a word handed it to me. The first line read in the rather shaky managerial caligraphy: 'Did General Grant pay for his box?' while underneath appeared: 'No. But my son Fred did. U. S. Grant.' The boy had taken it to the box instead of the box office."